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The World's Daily Newspaper

London, Tuesday, January 13, 1998

# Illustration leaver Built U.S. Reacts Quickly to Threat by Saddam

Any Ban on Inspectors Is a 'Clear and Serious Violation,' Clinton Says

> By Brian Knowlton ational Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON quickly to a new challenge from Iraq. President Bill Clinton said Monday that its threat to bar an American-led inspection team, if carried out Tuesday, would be a "clear and serious tion" of United Nations requirements.

Nizar Hamdoon, the chief Iraqi delegate to the United Nations, said in New York that the team headed by Scott Ritter had "too many U.S. nationals" — 9 of the 16 team members — and would not be allowed to work until it was "recomposed to ensure balance." Other inspection teams were not af-

Mr. Clinton said that "the United States had nothing whatever to do with selecting this team.

The inspectors, he said, were chosen for their expertise by the UN Special Commission, which has responsibility for inspecting for weapons of mass de-

struction in Iraq.
James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said earlier that American officials were awaiting a full report from UN officials in Iraq, and that no inspections were barred Monday.

Should inspections by Mr. Ritter's team be barred Tuesday, however, Iraq
"would be flouting UN resolutions"
that call for Iraq to give UN inspectors
"full and unfettered access to all sites," Mr. Rubin said.

A U.S. National Security Council official said separately that the Clinton administration would take the matter up with the UN Security Council before pursuing other action.

The United States has repeatedly said that it will not rule out punitive military Mr. Clinton said Monday that the United States maintained a "very significant force" in the region.

Mr. Hamdoon said there had been no decision to expel Mr. Ritter or any other American, leaving the new confronta-tion a notch below the drama of November, after President Saddam Hussein ordered all American inspectors to leave on the grounds they were spies.

But the refusal to allow Mr. Ritter's team to carry out its UN-mandated work demonstrated that a Russian-brokered solution to the earlier crisis had not brought a final end to the dispute, and that the United States again faces thorny

iraq appears determined to test U.S. resolve to the maximum, knowing that three of the UN Security Council's five permanent members — China, France and Russia - steadfastly oppose the use of force. Britain has sided with the United States.

There was no immediate word Monday whether the council, this month under French chairmanship, might meet to discuss the issue.

The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, sought Monday to cool the latest tensions. He called on Iraq to avoid any "precipitous" action and described the new Iraqi stance as merely "the first hiccup" encountered since the earlier crisis was resolved.

Other UN inspection teams will continue their work, Mr. Annan said. The secretary-general was to meet Monday at the UN with Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, to dis-cuss the simation. Mr. Butler was sched-uled to return to Iraq next Monday. "I

See IRAQ, Page 6



Residents of a village in Algeria weeping Monday for relatives killed in a massacre over the weekend.

# In Algeria, the Horror Mounts

#### France and Other Nations Resist Pressure to Intervene

By Anne Swardson ashington Post Service

PARIS — The slaughter in Algeria continues unabated as more than 100 people were killed in a small village south of Algiers, according to witnesses interviewed on French television and press reports Monday.

As always, the killers were said to be Islamic militants. Since the holy month of Ramadan began Dec. 30, more than 1,000 civilians have been killed. In almost seven years of Islamic insurgency, more than 65,000 people are said to have died.

Unlike some of the previous massacres, this one was acknowledged by the Algerian security forces in nearly the same numbers as reported in Algerian newspapers and on French television. The official press agency APS

wounded. Other reports indicated that more than 120 people had died.

An envoy from the Arab League arrived in Algiers on Monday to carry a message of "solidarity" to President Liamine Zeroual, and Canada is sending a senior diplomat shortly. The European Union plans a preliminary mission within the next two weeks, but has not established how far it wants to go or the extent to which the Algerian government will cooperate.

As always, details of the killers and the circumstances were sketchy. Many people were killed when a bomb exploded inside a room where a large group was watching a video. As survivors emerged into the open air, they were hacked to death with spades and axes by assailants waiting outside. Others were shot or had their throats

said 103 people had been killed and 70 cut. As usual, women and children were among the victims.

A dispatch from the village. Sidi Hamed, by Agence France-Presse said pools of blood had formed in the streets. Homes were gutted, and the walls of some of the huts were splattered with flesh and bone. A few members of the village's self-defense group, armed with weapons distributed by the government, attempted to hold off the attackers, to no avail.

"They attacked several places at the same time, and we could hear screams and shooting," an older woman said in an interview with Agence France-Presse. "Look, on the other side of the road you can see where they shot people and cut their throats.' Others were killed in the village of

See ALGERIA, Page 6

# Hong Kong

# **Major Bankruptcy** In Hong Kong Hits **Asian Markets Hard**

# Dow Rebounds After a Shock

By Thomas Crampton International Herold Tribune

TAIPEI - Stock markets and currencies around Asia took a dramatic dive to new lows on Monday — pushing down shares across Europe and shaking Wall Street — as one of Asia's largest investment banks, Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd., went into liquidation.

The Hong Kong stock index shed as much as 11 percent after news of Peregrine's demise, touching off a regional

stock selling spree that brought down share prices in Tokyo, Taipei. Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Sydney.

By the end of the day, Hong Kong stocks marginally recovered to close down 8.70 percent, at 8,121.62.

The Hang Seng index has lost almost a quarter of its value since the start of this year and more than half its value since the market peaked five months ago.

The downfall of Peregrine, triggered by a huge nonperforming loan to an Indonesian company connected to the Suharto family, marks the first major bankruptcy in Hong Kong since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule.

The stock market got the message Monday: Hong Kong's currency may survive the Asian crisis with its peg to the U.S. dollar intact, but there will be a price to pay for companies exposed to the rest of the region. Those firms that profited most by concentrating on Asian business, such as Peregrine, now have the most to lose.

The market plunge, which swept from Asia to Europe and briefly to Wall Street, came even as top officials from the United States and the International Monetary Fund began efforts to calm the region's economic panic.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 137 points just after the opening on fears that Asia's problems would cut U.S. corporate profits, The Associated Press reported. But that early decline, which extended Friday's 222-point slide and pushed the

See MARKETS, Page 10

#### Asia Rescue Faces **Rising Opposition** The Clinton administration is fa-

cing growing opposition in Congress over its plan to bail out Asian countries by funneling billions of dollars through the International Monetary Fund. Page 10.

ternational demands for Indonesia to carry out reforms agreed in October in exchange for \$43 billion in

[Mr. Summers said he would "urge that sound policies he taken that promote confidence and sta-

bility" when he meets with Mr. Suharto, Bloomberg

[He also outlined areas where he said Indonesia had

fallen short of meeting the requirements for access to the

aid package - including governance, the banking sys-

tem, and monetary and fiscal policies — in talks Mon-day with Finance Minister Mar'ie Mohammed and the

Defense Secretary William Cohen will arrive in

See SUHARTO, Page 10

governor of the central bank, Sudradjat Jiwandono.1

nergency loans.

# The Dou

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# The Downfall Of Peregrine: A Huge Loan to Wheeler-Dealer

By Keith B. Richburg

HONG KONG - Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd., Asia's leading homegrown investment bank, with 1,700 employees, announced Monday that it was filing for liquidation, making it the latest casualty of Southeast Asia's economic meltdown.

The collapse of the Hong Kong investment house was the first major bankruptcy in Hong Kong since the territory reverted to Chinese rule last July. Peregrine fell victim to a single

massive bad loan in Indonesia, and it was undone by the very practices it came to personify --- highly risky ventures, questionable partners and reliance on personal, often political, connec-Hong Kong stocks plummeted in an-

ticipation of Peregrine's demise, with the Hang Seng index dropping 8.7 percent. In November, Peregrine announced that it had reached a deal with Zurich Group of Switzerland to take a 24.1 percent stake in Peregrine in exchange for \$200 million, an injection of funds

that would have amounted to a rescue. Late last week, however, that deal fell apart as the depth of Peregrine's problems became apparent. The story of Peregrine - its creation just a decade ago as an upstart brokerage house, its dramatic growth riding on Asia's economic boom, and its equally

dramatic collapse Monday — in many ways stands as a metaphor for Southeast Asia's own breathtaking rise from poverty and its precipitous fall from prosperity. In Peregrine's case, the collapse involves a highly suspect bond issue, a high-flying young debt merchant, a Jakaria businessman with big dreams

and a smooth tongue, and a key member of Indonesia's powerful first family. At the center of the drama are Peregrine's two co-founders: Philip Tose, a lanky former race-car driver, and Francis Leung, who later became known as "the father of red chips" for floating main-

land Chinese stocks on the local market. They formed the firm in 1988 with \$38 million in seed money from some of the territory's wealthiest tycoons. Also close to the center of the bank's collapse is Siti Hardijanti Rukmana,

known as "Tutut," the eldest daughter of President Suharto of Indonesia and a

See PEREGRINE, Page 10

# U.S. Offers Baltic Nations Long-Term Help on NATO

New York Times Service WASHINGTON — The United States and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will sign a formal charter Friday that explicitly supports efforts by the three Baltic countries to become members of

NATO, according to U.S. officials.

By Steven Erlanger

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The document, called the Charter of Parmership, does not promise them membership — a commitment that Washington could not make on its own in any case. Instead, it is a formal statement of common interests and common goals that future U.S. administrations will find difficult to dilute.

By Michael Richardson

International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE - President Suharto of Indonesia,

under mounting international and domestic pressure to

put into effect painful austerity measures or resign, agreed Monday to strengthen and accelerate the coun-

try's reform program, the International Monetary

day that U.S. officials said would prove he is com-

mitted to the reforms mandated as part of the bailout

fidence in the world's fourth-most-populous nation and end a financial crisis that is shaking global markets.

engineered by the IMF.

Mr. Suharto is to announce a series of steps Thurs-

The reforms are intended to revive investor con-

Without pledging the United States to the defense of the Baltic countries, the charter embodies a moral and political commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three tiny lands, whose quest for in-dependence sped the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

President Bill Clinton will be joined at a White House signing ceremony by Presidents Lennart Meri of Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania.
For the Clinton administration, this

public display of commitment will be the most formal demonstration to date that America's plans for Europe's future

See NATO, Page 6

## AGENDA

The main stock index in Jakarta rose 2 percent.

Suharto Vows to Step Up Economic Reform, IMF Says

Stanley Fischer, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said Mr. Suharto had assured him during a 90-

"The president was very, very clear in his de-

Diplomats and analysts said that if that assurance

were translated into action, it could be an important

step toward re-establishing stability in Indonesia and

putting in place a debt-management program similar to one that promises to hasten recovery in South Korea.

The U.S. deputy Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers, who arrived in Jakarta on Monday, is to

meet Mr. Suharto on Tuesday to add weight to in-

termination to stay with the program and to strengthen it and to accelerate it," Mr. Fischer said. "There was

minute meeting that he supported the program.

no ambiguity in what he said."

### **Britain and Ireland Propose Ulster Pact**

Britain and Ireland unveiled Monday far-reaching proposals for ending years of strife in Northern Ireland.

They proposed a new intergovernmental paci, an elected Northern Ireland assembly and an all-Ireland ministerial council. The proposals also envisage

changes to the Irish republic's con-



The Parisian Lunch Has Taken a Hiki

FBI: Industrial Spying Is Surging

PAGE TWO

## Super Bowl Matches Packers vs. Broncos The Green Bay Packers advanced

stitutional claims over Northern Ire-

land and to the legislation by which

the Irish foreign minister, David An-

drews, said after the proposals re-

ceived a cautious welcome from the

main Protestant and Catholic political

"It is a road map to agreement,"

London rules the province.

parties. Page 7.

to their second straight Super Bowl with a 23-10 victory over the 49ers in San Francisco. They will face the Denver Broncos, 24-21 winners over the Steelers in Pittsburgh, in San Diego on Jan. 25. Page 18.

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# Place Your (\$200,000) Bets!

## Las Vegas Casinos Stake Out the High Rollers

By Brett Pulley

LAS VEGAS — It was past midnight at the Mirage Casino and Resort, and the actor Bruce Willis was sitting at a blackjack table, an unlit cigar between his teeth, drinking watermelon juice made especially for him and wagering more than \$200,000 an hour. With \$8,000 riding on one hand, Mr. Willis was dealt an ace and a 10. He slapped the winning cards down on the felt table. "Look

what I got," he bragged.

Relishing a lucky streak and a stack of more than \$50,000 in winnings in front of him. Mr. Willis looked over at a group of friends at another reserved blackjack table, drinking complimentary \$275 bottles of Louis Roederer champagne and betting thousands of dollars each hand.

Celebrating his good fortune, the movie star thrust his arms above his head, like a referce signaling a touch-

"Fran, give me a kiss," Mr. Willis said to his dealer, a friendly woman in

her 40s who blushed and obliged, blowing a kiss.

With the competition for wealthy.

high-stakes gamblers increasing, casino operators like nothing better than to see some of their top customers, like Mr. Willis, the basketball star Dennis Rodman and the Australian media mogul Kerry Packer, wagering huge sums of money and having a good time doing

These men are members of an elite, a growing group of the highest of high rollers who once belonged exclusively to a handful of casinos but who are now being heavily recruited by casinos across the United States and around the

Although the spread of casinos has made gambling more accessible to average Americans and prompted companies to expand their use of slot machines, their buffet dinners and their theme-park-style attractions to lure middle-income customers, casinos are nevertheless spending more time and

See VEGAS, Page 10

# In Paris, Takeout Is the Order of the Day

By Anne Swardson

EUILLY-SUR-SEINE, France — It's lunchtime in this close-in Paris suburb packed with office buildings, and lines at many takeout places are bulging out the

At Le Crior, a tiny bakery-cum-deli, six women crammed behind a small counter dish out smokedsalmon sandwiches, hot roast chicken plates and slices of quiche. Customers in suits or high heels grab their plastic bags and head back to the office for

"There's no time for a long lunch," said a consultant, Christophe Gontard, bag in hand. Lunch at the office "lets us work more."

Lunches at restaurants take too long and cost too much money, said his colleague, Arnaud Descamps. Besides, he added with a laugh, "The

Twenty years ago, the traditional French meal was under siege, it seemed at the time, by American-style fast food. McDonald's outlets sprang up everywhere and were filled with young people. But in the last five years or so, eating in France has undergone another revolution.

Takeout has taken over. Paris is filled with places to buy meals or sandwiches that can be taken back to home or office. Gas stations along the highway have added cases of sandwiches for sale, as have movie theaters and bookstores. Butchers, bakeries and delicatessens have begun selling meals for those on the move. In the land of the two-hour lunch it is a significant concession to the modern world.

"The French work more and more and they spend less and less time at the table," said Bernard Boutbol, president of the consulting firm Gira Conseil. "Someone who has one and a half hours for lunch eats lunch in 22 minutes and does errands for

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the rest of the time." In France, where styles of eating reflect styles of living, lunch time was the big meal of the day earlier in the century. Walking past ground-floor apartments at 1 P.M. 20 or more years ago, it was impossible not to hear the clinking of silverware on plates. Fathers came home from work, and children came home from school, to a hot meal that Maman had spent the morning preparing.

**▼ODAY**, children eat at school more and more and both parents are often at work. Takeout is another way in which France, which has adhered to its cultural traditions longer than many countries in Europe, is becoming like the rest of the developed world

Even now, takeout food is principally confined to large cities and to younger eaters. As recently as two years ago, according to surveys, 60 percent of



Norbert Saurat delivering lunch to offices near his bakery, Le Crior.

French citizens still ate lunch at home. Claude Fischler, a sociologist at the National Center for Scientific Research, said he doubted that eating in France ever would become as casual as it is in the

"For Americans, eating is not a self-contained activity," Mr. Fischler said. "You can eat and do anything else at the same time. Eating is more socially codified in France. Nourishment is still an activity in itself."

But the rise in the number of working women has made the transmission of cooking know-how from mother to child less common and has reduced the amount of time available for cooking. Restaurant meals are expensive, particularly in Paris. Frozen food is widely available, but takes time to cook.

Jean-Paul Bucher had working women in mind women do nearly all the cooking in French homes - when he created Flo Prestige, a sort of glorified

deli where shoppers can buy whole meals. Reheatable versions of rabbit with mustard sauce (\$8), filet with pepper sauce (\$15.30) or fried bass with fruit are among the daily specials. The number of Flo outlets has grown from one in 1980 to 10 today, and more are planned. They are open on Sunday, which is unusual for French

food enterprises other than restaurants.

"People now zap their food the way they zap their television channels," Mr. Bucher said. "Before, you didn't eat at your desk, you didn't eat standing up. You went to a restaurant and sat down for two hours. It was normal even 10 years ago. Now it's almost unbearable."

Lifestyle has played a part in winning over the French to takeout, but so has price. What is referred to here as la crise — nearly a decade of rising unemployment and slow growth - has made workers and nonworkers alike conscious

They frequent restaurants less. According to Gira Conseil estimates, business is down 10 percent for restaurants of all types in the last three years. Even sales of American-style fast food, which grew steadily since it was intro-duced two decades ago, have flattened.

CDONALD'S, which says its sales are still growing, finds the French enthusiastic about drive-throughs.

Some 314 of the hamburger chain's
630 outlets in France have added drivethroughs, a spokeswoman said, although French customers are less likely than Americans to consume the food in their cars and are more likely to take it home.

The Gira Conseil consultants found that the French are eating away from home more than ever - for half of all meals, up from 18 percent in 1975. They eat a large proportion of their lunches at company cafeterias. And they eat a lot of takeout, though not necessarily at their desks. Many corporations have refectories where employ-

ees can consume takeout or bag lunches.
Barbara Saurat, who runs Le Crior with her husband, said the bakery began selling takeout meals because customers asked for them.

"In the last four or five years, company budgets have shrunk," she said. "When people in the offices around here want to meet over lunch, they order in sandwiches instead of going to a restaurant."

Le Crior produces as many as 180 takeout meals at lunch, some delivered to offices and many others handed in bags to people who refuse to wait in line more than 10 minutes.

"You have to go very fast because the customer is impatient," Mrs. Saurat said. "It used to be lunch, but now it's the evening meal that counts the most. I do it, too. I'm here working for lunch."

# Business Air Fares Up, Calls for Remedy Grow

By Laurence Zuckerman New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Business travelers are continuing to pay increasingly higher air fares, with the price of a domestic roundtrip coach ticket on at least one route surpassing \$2,000 for the first time.

Overall, air fares for business travelers have climbed nearly 40 percent in the last two years, according to American Express Travel.

And while there appears to be no immediate end in sight to the increases. they have prompted some members of Congress to take a new look at reining in the airline industry.

The extent of these higher business

air fares can be seen on the Boston-Los Angeles route, where an unrestricted round-trip ticket bought on the day of flight costs \$2,004 on any of eight major airlines - even though a leisure traveler in the next seat, who booked in advance, might pay as little as \$238 for a non-

Several other routes are flirting with the \$2,000 threshold, including New York to Los Angeles, which now costs \$1,836 for an unrestricted round-trip coach ticket. American Express predicts that business fares will rise an additional 6 percent this year.

Unlike leisure travelers who can buy discounted tickets weeks in advance, many business travelers need to make trips on short notice and without restrictions on flight changes and refunds. Moreover, the planes have become more crowded than they have been in years, making seats available at the last minute scarcer and more expensive.

The rising business fares have led to a growing chorus of complaints about airline deregulation and have increased pressure on the Clinton administration and Congress to take action. Many politicians blame high air fares for hampering economic growth in their dis-

"I know economically it has hurt us." said Personnelly it has hurt said Representative Louise Slaughter, Democrat of New York, who represents the Rochester area and plans to introduce the Airline Competition and Lower Fares Act in the coming

The new bill will join four similar ones that have already been introduced by, among others, Senator John Mc-

Cain, Republican of Arizona, who is chairman of the Senate Commence Committee, and Representative John Duncan, Republican of Tennessee, who is chairman of the House Aviation Suk. committee.

The major airlines strongly oppose any government action, arguing that more people are flying at lower fares than ever before. Airline executives say that businesses and politicians did not offer to help them in the early 1990s. when they lost \$13 billion. Now that the economy is strong and passenger traffic is at record levels, they believe they should be able to reap the benefits.

Executives also point out that although airlines are expected to make record profits for the third consecutive year in 1998, their profit margins still lag behind those of many other industries.

Business travelers feel particularly abused because they account for more than half of airline revenue. For in the through-the-looking-glass world of airline pricing, the fares paid by leisure travelers, who book as long as a month in advance and stay over a weekend night, have in many cases declined, while last-minute fully refundable fares. which are most often paid by business travelers, are skyrocketing.

"The carriers always say that the business traveler is inelastic," said Peter Buchheit, director of travel and

Air fares for business travelers have climbed nearly 40 percent in the last two years, according to American Express.

meeting services for Black & Decker Corp., which spent \$18 million on air tickets for its American employees last year. "We need to travel so we will pay whatever it costs. But it has reached a point where we can't pay it anymore.".

Mr. Buchheit added that Black &

Decker had cut its air travel budget by \$1.4 million in the last six months of 1997 and would be looking to restrict. travel this year as well.

The burden of high fares is even greater on small companies. John Galbraith, president of Twin Advertising, a small company based in Rochester that had \$2 million in billings last year, said he was thinking about dropping clients outside the city because the high cost of visiting them cancels out the profit he makes from having their business. "Basically, what the airlines have done to companies like ours is kept us from

growing," he said.

The airlines say the higher business fares reflect the higher level of services. that business passengers expect. Business travelers demand a choice of multiple flights to the same destination each day and the convenience of being able to walk on a plane at the last minute both of which are expensive.

"We could sell out planes 21 days in advance and that would be it," Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for United Airlines. "But businessmen say, 'I can't. plan my business schedule 21 days in advance.

American Express Travel calculated that the average coach business fare between 215 pairs of cities in November was \$890 round trip, the highest level-since it began tracking fares in 1992.

Frustration is at an all-time high," said Eric Altschul, a vice president at American Express Consulting Services, speaking of large corporations, "because, it is a cost that they can't control."

# WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather

# Montrealers Are Sent to Shelters

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Government offices. universities and large companies were ordered shut Monday as soldiers and emergency workers tried to get Canada's second largest city back on its feet after an

The police, worried about temperatures (minus 10 Fahrenheit) overnight, invoked emergency powers to order people from their homes and into shelters.

Hundreds of thousands of Quebeckers were in their seventh day without heat or power Monday in the aftermath of an ice storm that swept through eastern Ontario and southern Quebec last week.

The Hydro-Quebec utility said that 704,000 households were still without electricity early Monday. Some areas south of Montreal may have to wait two weeks before electricity is restored.

At one home for the elderly, the police found 39 people huddled in the freezing cold. "We called their families, who hadn't thought of taking care of their own relatives," a police spokesman said.

Premier Lucien Bouchard of Quebec appealed Sunday to residents with power in their homes to provide shelter to some of their more than 2 million neighbors left without electricity.

"I'm appealing to all Quebeckers who have electricity to get in touch with their relatives and friends who are in difficulty that dropped to minus 12 centigrade to invite them, even persuade them, to

At the peak of the storm, more than 3 million people were without power, and transportation throughout the region was disrupted. Insurance experts say damage will total at least a billion Canadian dollars (\$700 million). The storm has been blamed for 15

deaths, including those of three people in a fire Sunday in their blacked-out home in Venise-en-Quebec, south of Montreal. Mr. Bouchard said emergency shelter

already stretched to the limit with 100,000 people in them, could not be the only refuge for those without electricity and heat. He said a toll-free number would be set up to allow people to call in and say how many people they could shelter.



A convoy of soldiers and emergency workers preparing to begin cleanup operations in Quebec.

#### TRAVEL UPDATE

#### Heavy Snow Covers Middle East

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — The first big snow in six years turned Jerusalem into a picture-postcard on Monday, dusting the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall and the Church of the

More prosaically, snow blanketed the Middle East, claiming the lives of a motorist in Lebanon and a person stranded in Iran in a region unaccustomed to freezing temperatures.

A woman was killed in Lebanon on Sunday when her car skidded and overturned. The country's worst snowstorm in

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more than a decade closed the main road to Syria as well as Europe Most people stayed at home in Jordan on Monday as only

emergency vehicles braved the snow-blanketed streets. The snow began falling on Jerusalem on Sunday and into the early hours of Monday in the first heavy storm since 1992, when 40 centimeters (16 inches)—the biggest snowfall since 950 - covered the city.

Usually a trace of snow falls in Jerusalem each year, melting

## Another Blizzard Hits Tokyo

TOKYO (Reuters) — Heavy snow hit Tokyo on Monday for the second time in five days, sending office workers home early and creating havoc for evening commuters. Sections of highway were closed in outlying areas and

several train lines ran at about 130 percent of capacity with delays on most lines serving the Tokyo area, transport officials

As much as 15 centimeters of snow were expected in sections of the capital, the Meteorological Agency said. Tokyo received its first heavy snow in more than two years

Polish public transport unions ended a six-day pay strike Monday that had paralyzed the city of Poznan. Union officials said, however, that they would continue with other lessdisruptive forms of protest. (Reuters)

Belgrade motorists wound up in huge jams Monday as the city transport monopoly went on strike for immediate payment of overdue December wages.

High Low Hig

North America Colder air will continue to Colder air will continue to Sala The trend towards mild spill south across the Great Plains. A strong storm system will head northeast ward for the Southeast across Europe, resulting in Siberta and chill eastern cran and wind are sleely for new York, Boston and Washington Thursday and Washington Thursday and the Sala Washington Thursday and Friday. Snow will fall terlikely Wednesday through ther west.

Such across the Great The trend towards mild on the Subrata and chill eastern China and Korea. A vigor-ous storm will bring moderate to heavy rain to Japan. Travel deleya due to wind due to rain and wind are likely for likely some solar travel. Such across team of the southeast wastern Europe. Delays and Friday. No major friday. Snow will fall terlikely wednesday through the results a strong the southeast and state of the southeast and state on the southeast and state of th North America GF OF
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# FBI Warns Companies To Beware of Espionage

Foreign Countries (Friends and Foes Alike) Have Increased Industrial Spying, It Says

> By Jack Nelson Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Despite passage of the 1996 Economic Espionage Act, the FBI says foreign spies have stepped up their attacks on U.S.-based companies, and a national survey estimates that intellectual-property losses from for-cign and domestic espionage may have exceeded \$300 billion in 1997 alone.

Governments of at least 23 countries, ranging from Germany to China, are targeting American companies, accord-

ing to the FBL
Urging U.S. companies to notify the
FBI if they suspect espionage, Larry
Torrence, deputy assistant director of
national security, said. "The odds are not favorable for any American com-pany when they are targeted for clandes-tine action by some country's intelligence service.

More than 1,100 documented incidents of economic espionage and an additional 550 suspected incidents that could not be fully documented were reported last year by major companies in a survey conducted by the American Society for In-dustrial Security. The Los Angeles Times obtained results of the survey, which is scheduled to be released Wednesday.

The society's periodic surveys, which the FBI Director, Louis Freeh, has cited in congressional testimony, provide the federal government with its only estimate of potential damage from eco-

The 1997 survey disclosed that hightech companies, especially in California's Silicon Valley, were the most frequent targets of foreign spies, followed by companies in manufacturing and the service industries.

Among the spies' most sought-after information were research and development strategies, manufacturing and marketing plans and customer lists.

As a matter of policy, the FBI does not identify governments that sponsor economic espionage. But in a recent article in an academic journal, an FBI agent who works in the field named some of the countries and provided a rare look of economic spying against the French mto commercial spying by foreign in-government. U.S. sources said the mto commercial spying by foreign intelligence services.

France, Germany, Israel, China, Russia and South Korea were named as major offenders in the article by Edwin Fraumann, a New York-based FBI agent much more conservative in their overall who teaches at John Jay College of approach to commercial espionage.

Criminal Justice. His article appeared in Public Administration Review, pub-lished by the American Society for Public Administration,

Mr. Fraumann and intelligence sources say China has accelerated its efforts to penetrate the security of U.S. companies. In fact, China was involved in one of the relatively few cases the FBI has brought so far under the 1996 Economic Espionage Act, which makes theft of proprietary economic information a felony punishable by a \$10 million fine and 15-year prison sentence.

Harold Worden, 56, a retired Eastman

Kodak Co. manager, pleaded guilty in November to charges of stealing formulas, drawings and blueprints from Kodak and passing them along to China. He agreed to cooperate in a continuing investigation.

A U.S. District Court judge, Michael Telesca, in sentencing him to a year in prison under a plea bargain negotiated by prosecutors, denounced Mr. Worden for providing trade secrets to "not just any foreign national, but China," a longtime U.S. adversary with a bad human-rights record.

The FBI confirmed information in Mr. Fraumann's report that it is investigating more than 700 cases involving economic espionage by foreign entities. It said economic spying by countries con-sidered friends as well as adversaries of the United States had been increasing.

French intelligence, according to Mr. Franmann, has spied on U.S. companies by wiretapping U.S. businessmen flying on Air France between New York and Paris. France has also used such clandestine methods as surveillance of business personnel and communications inside France, including telephone conversa-tions and faxes. Air France has denied any involvement in bugging activities on its planes.

U.S. intelligence sources have engaged in commercial espionage - with decidedly mixed results

As recently as 1995, five Americans four of them CIA agents — were expelled from France after being accused bungled operation forced the CIA to temporarily suspend virtually all of its operations in France. In addition, sources said, it made U.S. intelligence agencies



Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, being saluted by scouts as he cast his ballot in El Cobre.

# **Castro Hails Show** Of Voters' Support

He Sees Cuba's Identity as Stable

his country was not changing the roling Communist Party. but was reaffirming its communist identity in a predom-

inantly capitalist world.
"It's the world that's changing, not Cuba," the 71-yearold Cuban leader said after casting his vote Sunday in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba.

The scheduled elections were presented by Mr. Castro's Communist Party government as a show of support and national unity before a visit by Pope John Paul II

beginning Jan. 21. Three hours before polling stations were due to close, election officials were already reporting that more than 7.6 objectives.

million of the island's 7.8 mil-HAVANA - President Fi- lion voters had cast their baldel Castro of Cuba, hailing a lots in the elections, which big turnout of voters in one-offered no choice of candiparty general elections, said dates and no alternatives to

Voters were simply asked to endorse two official lists, one of 601 candidates for a National Assembly and an-other of 1,192 candidates for provincial assemblies. After voting in Santiago de

Cuba province, where he is running for re-election to one of the National Assembly seats, Mr. Castro said that the capitalist world was "in crisis." He cited the economic problems affecting Asia and their repercussions in international stock markets.

Cuba, on the other hand, Mr. Castro said, "is reaffirming its position, its ideals, its

#### POLITICAL NOTES

#### U.S. to Aid Training Of Programmers

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration is planning a broad federal effort to help train more computer programmers, responding to concerns from economists and business leaders that American companies have a critical shortage of skilled technology workers.

The administration's initiatives, which include millions of dollars in grants to fund educational programs, the creation of a nationwide job bank on the Internet and a campaign to glamorize computer-related professions, come as a survey shows that one in 10 information technology jobs in the United States is unfilled.

The study, conducted for an industry group by Virginia Tech, estimated that 346,000 computer programmer and systems analyst jobs are vacant in U.S. companies with more than 100 employees.

Although rapidly growing computer companies increasingly have had difficulties finding enough workers with cutting-edge skills, the Virginia Tech report indicates that the shortage has spread to many non-secretary, Michael McCurry, said. "I tions and people?"

technology companies — including banks, hospitals and retailers — that depend on programmers to design and operate large systems. The widening scope of the issue has prompted the administration to take the unusual step of intervening in a

worker-training issue.

The Labor Department plans to announce a \$3 million grant program to fund efforts by schools, businesses and local governments that will provide computer skills to laid-off workers in other industries, an administration official said. The department will also commit itself to spending \$8 million to create an Internet site where employers can post job openings and workers can post their résumés, the official

### Clinton Will Weigh Higher Basic Wage

WASHINGTON — At the urging of allies in Congress, President Bill Clinton is considering seeking an increase in the minimum wage, a

Oct. 1, 1996, and to \$5.15 an hour on Sept. 1, 1997.

Republicans in Congress are likely to fight any increase. They opposed the last increase — arguing that it would cost jobs — but retreated under political pressure. Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, has proposed increasing the minimum wage by \$2.10 an hour, to \$7.25 core fire years. to \$7.25, over five years.

"An increase in the minimum wage has been suggested by many of our friends and supporters in Congress," Mr. McCurry said.

## Quote/Unquote

major theme that may become part of his State of the Union Address in two weeks: "Are we going to have a higher level of citizenship and a higher level of society, or are we going to be thrown to the winds of chaos and anarchy by having a global market-place dominate democratic institu-

#### Away From Politics

 A medical belicopter that had just picked up an injured skier crashed in a storm on the way to the hospital, killing the four people aboard. Searchers found the smashed helicopter in Little Cottonwood Canyon, 18 miles (19 kilometers) southeast of Salt Lake City.

 The District of Columbia is losing millions of dollars a year because vandals have decapitated more than half its parking meters. Only 7,000 of the 15,776 meters in the city work, said the Parking Management Division. The city collected roughly \$1 million a month in parking meter revenue from 1991 to 1995, but revenue dropped to \$800,000 a month in the fiscal year 1996, then to \$400,000 a month in 1997.

 A former Secret Service informant is going to trial in Florida on charges he threatened to kill President Bill Clinton. Zsolt Sass, 34, has been in jail since September after his girlfriend told the police he had threatened numerous times to kill the president.

 A 9-year-old boy died after his parents' truck rolled into a pond at a state wildlife area in Upper Freehold, New Jersey. The police said they believed the boy was left asleep in the truck when his parents left to go fishing.

# Both Sides Try to Short-Circuit Unabomber Trial

By William Glaberson New York Times Service

SACRAMENTO, California After a week in which Theodore Kaczynski reduced his trial to chaos, Justice Department officials in Washington considered a new offer by him to try to avoid the death penalty by pleading guilty to Unabom crimes. By the week's end, officials op-

posed to a plea deal had rejected it. The talks, however, showed that both sides were struggling to find a way to

end the case that has become a public spectacle. The review came after a bîzarre week when Mr. Kaczynski tried to hang himself with his underwear, and then demanded to represent himself.

The strange events increased pressure on the Justice Department to jus-tify a rigorous and expensive trial in an effort to obtain the death penalty for a defendant whose mental competency is in question. Prosecutors were left to contemplate an unpredictable defendant as his own lawyer.

" said one person involved in the talks. "This is a lose, lose, lose situation for everybody.

Mr. Kaczynski is to undergo courtordered psychiatric tests this week. One person at the Justice Depart-

ment said a sticking point was that Mr. Kaczynski was insisting on retaining the right to appeal certain pretrial rulings by the judge, Garland Burrell
Jr. In what was described as a conditional offer. Mr. Kaczynski would accept a sentence that is described by

"There is no glory in this for any-dy," said one person involved in possibility of release" but retain the

right to appeal certain limited issues.

If Mr. Kaczynski eventually won an appeal on rulings such as what evidence could be admitted at the trial, he might be retried or might be freed from federal custody. Any chance at freedom might be

theoretical, because federal courts would be likely to review any bid for freedom meticulously and he might face state murder charges if a federal

# College Freshmen: They're in It for the Money

By Ethan Bronner

NEW YORK — A survey of college freshmen confirms what professors and administrators said they have been sensing: Students are increasingly disengaged and view higher education less as an opportunity to expand their minds and more as a means to increase their incomes.

The annual nationwide poll by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles shows that two sugmeaningful philosophy of life"—have switched places in the last three decades. In the survey taken at the

reversed, with 40.8 percent selecting financial security and 82.5 percent citing the importance of developing a philosophy.

the Higher Education Re-search Institute at UCLA. The survey was first taken 32

years ago.

The trend has long been in the making, with students' strong interest in high incomes rising to a plateau in the mid-1980s. But the desire edged down a bit through the 1990s, rising again slightly

with this latest survey. Ms. Sax said the trend took gested goals of education — Ms. Sax said the trend took on more significance when cially" and "to develop a added to the fact that income ing students showed unprece dented levels of academic and political disengagement.

The percentage of students start of the fall semester, 74.9 percent of freshmen chose being well off as an essential goal and 40.8 percent chose developing a philosophy. In 1968, the numbers were reversed with 40.8 percent. year the question was asked. At the same time, a record 34.5 percent said they had "overslept and missed

class," compared with a low

It is a matter of using edu-cation more as a means to an end, rather than valuing what a spire that, a record high of 39.4 percent said they aspired you are learning, said Linda to obtain a master's degree Sax, director of the survey at and 49.7 percent said they expected to earn a B average. Some professors expressed

little surprise when told of the seemingly contradictory mix of boredom and ambition. "Schooling has become more about training and less

about transformation," said Mark Edmundson, a profes-sor of English at the University of Virginia who wrote of the growing consumerist view of education by students in the September issue of . 57.8 percent in 1966. Harper's magazine.

"You go there to prepare 13.7 percent said they fre-yourself for the future," Mr. quently discussed politics, Edmundson said, "to learn a compared with 16.2 percent skill, a capacity that you can convert into dollars later on. percent in 1968. And being trained is boring. Being educated is not, but that is going on less and less."

ward politics. A record low 26.7 percent "keeping up to date with political affairs" was a very important or essential life goal, compared with 29.4 percent in 1996 and a high of

Similarly, an all-time low

quently discussed politics, compared with 16.2 percent last year and a high of 29.9

Advocating social activism, which declined in the 1980s and then rose again in The disengagement was the early 1990s, again appears also reflected in attitudes toto be on the wane.

The survey, sponsored by the American Council on of freshmen thought that Education, included 348,465 students at 665 two- and fouryear colleges and universities in the United States. The data were statistically adjusted to be representative of the 1.6 million students entering as freshmen last fall.



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By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

SRIPERUMBUDUR, India - In a move that her supporters hope will shape Indian politics for years to come, Sonia Gandhi, the widow of one assassinated prime minister and the daughter-in-law of another, has made an emotional entry into public life.

"The time has come when I feel compelled to put aside my personal feelings and step forward," the Italian-born Mrs. Gandhi told tens of thousands of jubilant supporters at a rally Sunday in this southern town where her husband was killed by a snicide bomber in 1991. "My devotion to our country and her people is unwavering and absolute."

Although she did not say that she would seek office herself, the crowd responded to her speech with cries of "Prime Minister Sonia!"

Mrs. Gandhi's decision to join the political fray upset all calculations about the outcome of the national election that is to be held on four successive weekends in February and March. It electrified the long-dominant Congress (I) Party, which her family has run for more than half a century but which has recently suffered humiliating defections and other setbacks.

The speech was also a statement by the Gandhi family that it is determined not to fade from the forefront of politics. There was widespread speculation not only that Mrs. Gandhi would seek the prime minister's job, but also that her daughter, Priyanka, who sat beside her as she spoke, and perhaps her son, Rahul, might run for Parliament.

The Gandhis have been one of the 20th century's most resilient political



Mrs. Gandhi, above, at Sriperumbudur. In New Delhi, women protested price increases and demanded representation in Parliament.

dynasties. They are not related to Mohandas K. Gandhi, founder of modern India, but trace their political lineage to the country's first prime minister, Jawa-harlal Nehru, who took office in 1947 and served until his death in 1964.

Mr. Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister in 1966 and served, with a two-year interruption, until she was assassinated in 1984 by her Sikh security guards.

Her son Rajiv succeeded her and held office for four years. He was campaigning for a return to power in 1991 when



he was killed in Sriperumbudur. Since Rajiv Gandhi's death, the Congress Party has slowly lost power and influence. Partly as a result of its decline, India has entered a period of polit-

ical instability, with three governments since the last national election in 1996. Across India, people at all levels of life speak of their yearning for powerful, charismatic leadership of the kind provided by the Nehru-Gandhi family for much of the country's first 40 years. But Sonia Gandhi's attempt to revive the family's political fortunes runs

counter to another powerful trend in Indian politics: the spread of splinter parties based on the myriad distinctions of region, language, religion and caste.

The growing power of the splinter parties led in 1996 to the formation of a 14-party coalition government that ruled for 18 months, under two prime ministers, without a parliamentary majority. The Congress Party, frustrated out of power, eventually toppled the coalition, using accusations that one of the coalition parties, based here in Tamil Nadu state, secretly aided the Tamil rebels from Sri

Lanka who assassinated Rajiv Gandhi. Until Sunday, Congress hoped only to finish a decent second in the coming election and perhaps put together a new coalition. But Mrs. Gandhi's entry outo the stage has set off a wave of emphoria among the party faithful who only a few days ago were consumed with pessimism and recriminations. They believe she will be able to build a coalition of women, young people and the poor that will propel them to victory.

'It is not important that she has never been in government," said S.V. Nageswaran, a Congress leader in southern India who attended the rally Sunday. "People know that her family has always been identified with India. She is popular, she is loved and she will come to power."

Mrs. Gandhi chose Sriperumbudur to

make her first political speech because it was here that her husband was assassinated by Tamil militants angered by his efforts to mediate in the war between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil separatists. Before her speech, she and her daughter visited a memorial near the site of the murder, scattering rose petals and jasmine blossoms before his portrait.

From there she was driven a short distance to a sports field behind a high school, where a throng waited under the midday sun. After being introduced as our beloved leader, the hope of our nation," she read a short speech in English, pansing periodically so it could be translated into Tamil, the principal language in this part of India.

Dressed in a dark green sari, Mrs. andhi, 51, spoke clearly and with apparent conviction. 'I believe Congress is the only truly national party representing the whole country and all its

BRIEFLY

people," she said. "Although I am aware of its shortcomings, I am convinced that under the right and able leadership it is the only party with the capability and experience to give India what it needs at this moment.

Mrs. Gandhi, a Roman Catholic, said she is committed to secularism and wants to conciliate this country's many ethnic, religious and social groups.

"We do not want our society to be broken into factions," she said. "Wedo not want our people to be separated from each other because of caste, religion or region. We prize our diversity.

These comments were oblique attacks on her party's main compensor, the Hindu-oriented Bharatiya James Party, known as the BIP. Several proninent figures who joined or supported a BJP-led coalition government that collapsed after 13 days in May 1996 have built their careers on attacking Muslims or other minorities.

Mrs. Gandhi's rivals will probably use her foreign background against her, although she became an Indian citizen in 1986. They have already coined the phrase "Rome Raj" to suggest that she represents foreign efforts to dominate

"What is her qualification except that she is the widow of Rajiv Gandhi?" asked Ramakrishna Hegde, a veteran politician who has brought his party into the BJP-led alliance. "She doesn't even come from the Nehru family. She will still be considered a foreigner. What does she know about India and its people?"

'It is too early to assess her as a politician," said Pramod Mahajan, a senior BJP leader. She "is an unopened envelope," he added. "Nobody knows what is written inside."

# Islamic Leaders Back Megawati's Bid for Power

JAKARTA - Indonesia's two top Islamic leaders voiced support Monday for the opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri in her readiness to run for the presidency and said President Suharto should end his 32-year-

But neither was optimistic about her chances despite the growing economic turmoil under the 76-year-old

"In our hearts we know Suharto has to be replaced," said Abdurrahman Wahid, the leader of Indonesia's largest Islamic group, Nahdlatul Ulama, which has about 34 million members. "But the problem is there is a difference between our idealism and the realism of the situation."

On Saturday, Mrs. Megawati said she was willing to run for president if no one else was nominated to replace Mr. Suharto.

Mr. Wahid and Amien Rais, head of the 28-million-member Muhama solid symbol for political change than a genuine bid for power.

They noted that she is without a

support in Parliament, and thus blocked constitutionally from becoming president.

Mr. Amien added that Mrs. Megawati "has only a slight chance, as she fights for the presidency from outside the system," The Jakarta Post reported Monday.

Mr. Amien said recently that he was also willing to be nominated for the presidency. About 90 percent of Indonesia's

202 million people are Muslim, making it the world's most populous Is-Mr. Wahid estimated that about 30 million voters supported Mrs. Mega-

Mr. Suharto, a retired army general, dominates Indonesia's tightly

controlled political system. He came to power in 1965 when he replaced Mrs. Megawati's father, President Sukarno, after his troops

crushed a Communist coup attempt. Mr. Suharto has been nominated madiyah group, said they saw Mrs. by the governing Golkar party for a Megawati's pronouncement more as seventh consecutive five-year term, but has yet to state publicly whether he will run for re-election.

recognized political party, without ducted by popular vote, but are de- from 10 to 25 percent higher, in line

cided by an assembly made up of 500 with the rupiah's plunge. The gov-Suharto government nominees and a 500-member Parliament dominated by Golkar. The Parliament also includes 75 representatives of the

powerful military. Most analysts predict Mr. Subarto will run again. Calls for him to step down are increasing, however, be cause of a dramatic slump in the Indonesian currency, the rupiah, that is expected to fuel unemployment, slash economic growth and possibly

lead to social unrest. The rush on food in Indonesia, sparked by fears of hyper-inflation, generally subsided Monday although prices of basic commodities were

igher in most Jakarta markets. The country's currency crisis sent frantic shoppers into supermarkets and traditional markets for three straight days last week to stock up on essentials such as rice, cooking oil, sugar and flour despite the government's appeal for calm and assurances that it had enough food to feed the people.

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emment has said it would increase short-term tice imports to 2 million tons from 1.5 million to cope with shortages and also to maintain adequate rice stocks before a festival that marks the end of the Islamic

fasting month of Ramadan. The official Antara news agency reported Monday that a distributor was caught hoarding 356 tons of sugar in East Kalimantan, on the Indonesian part of Borneo.

Antara quoted the province's deputy governor, Suwarna, as saying the company's licenses could be re-

The chief of armed forces, General Feisal Tanjung, warned Monday that the military would take tough action against hoarders of basic commod-

"We will sweep out speculators who attempt to hoard the nine basic commodities," General Tanjung was quoted by Antara as saying.

Prices of the commodities, which include rice, sugar, cooking oil, soy beans and salt, are controlled by the

#### In Japan, Blair Gets Apology for the War

TOKYO — In a meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, the prime minister of Japan issued an official apology Monday for his country's actions in World War IL Most British veterans' groups said

the apology was not enough.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed the government's "deep remorse and heartfelt apology" for the "tremen-dous damage and suffering" in the war, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He also offered trips for veterans and scholarships for their descendants worth \$1.3 million. The apology's wording was the same as a statement issued in 1995 by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the spokesman said.

The Royal British Legion said it welcomed the "initiatives about reconciliation." But the Japanese Labor Camp Survivors' Association said Japan still sought to "get away without apologizing or offering compensation."

day after a surprise visit to Manila by the prime minister of Taiwan.

Taiwan said the trip by Prime Minister Vincent Siew was part of efforts to help financially troubled neighbors. Mr. Siew visited the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank, of which Taiwan is a member. Hao Yinbiao, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy, said Beijing had made a "severe representation" to Manila. The Philippines does not have diplomatic re-

# Relief Is Slow in China

BEIIING -- Shortages of medicine and food hampered efforts Monday to care for a half-million people left injured or homeless by an earthquake in northern China.

The casualty connt held steady at 50 dead and 11,440 people hurt, but estimates of damage to homes soared. Disaster relief officials in Hebei said that 103,000 houses had been destroyed. A provincial official said that another 130,000 houses were un-

Police used tear gas Monday in Labore, Pakistan, to disperse thousands of Shiites

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out has yet to state publicly whether the will run for re-election.

Traders said the panic started to beans and salt, are controlled by the subside Monday although prices of the panic started to beans and salt, are controlled by the state using buffer stocks held by the most commodities in Jakarta were national logistics agency.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

#### Taiwan Official's Visit For the Record To Manila Irks China

lations with Taiwan.

MANILA — China delivered a sharp who tried to ransack buildings in a protest protest to the Philippine government Mon- of the massacre of 24 Shiites. (Reuters)

# China Executes 16 Over Muslim Unrest

people in its restive northwestern of the newspaper said. Muslim region of Xinjiang for murder and robbery during a wave of anti-Chinese violence last year, according to

a court official. In Almaty, the former capital of Kazakhstan, a spokesman for a Muslim exile movement said that China had executed 13 Uighur separatists but vowed that their fight for an independ-

ent "East Turkestan" would go on. Xinjiang Legal Daily, in an edition seen in Beijing on Monday, said that convicts on death row included a gang of seven who killed 13 people and com-mitted more than 10 robberies to "fan ethnic hatred and create an atmosphere Last Feb. 5 separatist Uighur mil-

itants rioted in Yining city, an action that was followed by widespread looting. Militants planted bombs on buses in the regional capital of Urumqi three weeks later, coinciding with funeral rites in Beijing for China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping. The bombs

killed nine people.

China executed 20 people from April to July last year for their roles in the

Yining riots and the Urumqi bombings. A total of 27 others were jailed for seven years to life. Uighur militants have said that they

want an independent state of East Tur-

Reuters of terror." They "created disorder to kestan in Xinjiang, which borders Af-BELING — China has executed 16 split the motherland," the Jan. 2 edition ghanistan, Pakistan and mostly Muslim countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union. The court official said the 16 de-

fendants were put to death on Dec. 29 after a Chinese court in Urumqi convicted them of murder, robbery and drug peddling.

Fewer than half the defendants were Muslims from the Uighur and Hui ethnic minorities, said the official, who declined to be identified.

Earlier this month, Chinese state media said the authorities planned a crackdown on separatist activity and labor strife in Xinjiang with the start of the Islam holy month of Ramadan and the approach of the Chinese New Year.

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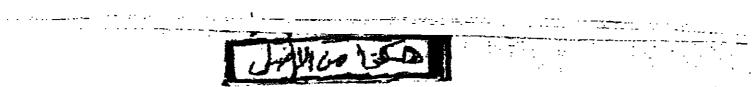
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# Israeli Leader Survives A No-Confidence Vote

**But 54-54 Tie Reflects a Difficult Situation** 

JERUSALEM — The government of hime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ervived a parliamentary no-confidence rote Monday, the first since his foreign inister's resignation left it hanging by a

Parliament rejected two no-confience motions by a vote of 54 to 54, with wo abstentions. The motions were rought by the Labor Party and smaller Prosition factions. It takes 61 votes in he 120-member Parliament to bring wn the government.

Lawmakers inside and outside the govimment had forecast that the opposition would fail to muster enough votes to opple the coalition led by the right-wing likud party and force new elections. In a bitter debate, opposition legis-

lators attacked the government over rising unemployment and the slow pace of peace moves with the Palestinians. Last week's resignation of David Levy, head of the five-member Gesher party, left the coalition with a 61-to-59 majority in the Knesset. He accused Mr.

Netanyahu of not doing enough for working class Israelis and of failing to move forward on peace.

Analysts said that without Mr. Levy. Mr. Netanyaliu would be more dependent than ever on right-wing and religious hard-liners and would find it hard to deliver the "significant and credible" bandover of West Bank land to Palestinians that the United States has demanded.

When he resigned, Mr. Levy had said the government was like a plane on a flight to nowhere. But Amnon Rubinstein, a legislator whose Meretz party co-sponsored the second no-confidence motion, said: "A flight to nowhere has a pilot. The plane takes off. There are a couple of stewardesses and there's a safe landing. This government has none of

Past Israeli governments have survived on razor-thin majorities, but given the crisis-laden record of Mr. Netanyahu's 19 months in power, some analysts and politicians have predicted the government's early collapse. Elections are not scheduled until November 2000.

# **Tehran Denies Plans for a Visit** By an American Congressman

TEHRAN — Iran said Monday that no arrangements had been made for a visit here by Thomas Lantos, a U.S.

The Foreign Ministry, quoted by the official Iranian press agency IRNA, did after the televised address by President Mohammed Khatami to the American

people last Wednesday.

Mr. Lantos tested the waters the day

Mr. Lantos had first proposed to visit hostile relations. Iran last month, but the State Department had said it would discourage the visit and Iran had denied at the time any such visit was planned.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry said that no arrangement whatsoever had been made for U.S. Congressman Thomas Lantos to visit Tehran," IRNA said.

"Mahmond Mohammadi, the minment between the Iranian government to make the next move.

and the United States, and observed that-Lantos had previously only indicated a personal interest to visit Tehran in a bid

to open talks with the Iranian govern-

ment," the press agency added. Mr. Khatami, a Shrite cleric who is seen as a moderate, combined concilinot say if it was reacting directly to a atory remarks with stern criticism of U.S. renewed offer by Mr. Lantos to visit Iran policies. He called for a "crack in the wall of mistrust" between Americans and Iranians but made no direct proposal

for dialogue between the two countries.

The U.S. government hailed his "enafter the interview of Mr. Khatami on couraging tone" as officials debated CNN by writing to Mr. Khatami to re-new his offer to visit Iran and discuss the prospect of better relations. ways of responding. Washington said that government-to-government talks were the only way to end two decades of

Mr. Khatami's address, the first time an Iranian leader had spoken directly to the American people on television since the Islamic revolution, sparked wide debate in Iran.

Conservatives criticized his conciliatory remarks and moderates praised them as paving the way for a rapprochement between the two nations. The modistry's spokesman, denied any agree- erates said it was now up to Washington



UP IN THE AIR — Supporters of Momir Bulatovic, who lost the presidency of Montenegro in October, urging the new reformist leader, Milo Djukanovi, to keep close ties with Serbia. A flag read "Unity."

## **ALGERIA:** More Than 100 Are Butchered

Continued from Page 1

Haouche Sahraoui, reportedly as they were leaving a mosque.

The Islamic insurgency began after the government canceled the second round of elections in early 1992 that the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

But exactly who is doing the killing

and why has become a subject of debate. The terrorist wing of the Front has declared a cease-fire with the government

One theory is that the military allows the violence to continue to alienate the public from the fundamentalists. Another is that the extremist terror organization Armed Islamic Group is killing the relatives and allies of Front members.

The various diplomatic factions hope

to sort out these confusions, though the government has warned it has little interest in foreigners snooping around on Algerian soil. Some European nations are wary as well. France, the nation's former colonial ruler, is concerned about controlling Islamic terrorism on its own soil.

The French defense minister, Alain Richard, said Monday on France 2 television that France "does not see a reason to internationalize the conflict" in Algeria. "The view of the French government," he added, "is that there are authorities in place in Algeria who, moreover, have made an effort toward some form of democracy.

'We do not propose the sending of 'blue helmet' peacekeepers," he said, referring to the United Nations.

# French Deny **Running Guns** To Hutu in '94'

PARIS - France categorically denied Monday a report that it authorized arms exports to Rwanda until May 30, 1994, nearly two months after the start of a genocide there in which as many as 800,000 people were killed.

The deputy spokesman at the Foreign Ministry, Yves Doutriaux, said France had stopped authorizing arms exports to Rwanda even before the United Nations imposed an arms embargo against the Rwandan authorities on May 17, 1994.

Mr. Doutrianx was reacting to the publication Monday of a report in the daily newspaper Le Figaro alleging the sale of French weaponty after the start of the 1994 bloodbath, in which Hutu ex-tremists killed more than 500,000 Tutsi and moderate Hum.

Paris denied "most categorically" that French authorities authorized arms exports to Rwanda after Aug. 4, 1993.

The spokesman emphasized that approval of arms deals stopped "before a May 17, 1994, UN Security Council embargo on arms to Rwanda, a decision made by the Security Council on the initiative of France."

Le Figaro quoted sources as saying that President François Mitterrand, a Socialist, told aides during the summer of 1994 that "in such countries, genocide is not too important."

The paper said French cooperation with the Hutu regime "continued at least until the end of May, or nearly two months after the start of the extermination and about two weeks after the United Nations vote on an arms embargo."
The newspaper said that "On May 3,

1994, or nearly a month after the start of the genocide, an aircraft transporting arms for the Rwandan armed forces worth \$942,680 landed in Zaire.

"The company Dyl-Invest, then based at Cran-Gevrier, played the role of intermediary to charter this flight, paying \$450,000, with the rest of the payment made by the Rwandan Embassy in Cairo," Le Figaro said: At the beginning of May the French arms export company Sofremas "confirmed a \$8,028,000 arms order from the Rwandan Embassy in Paris," the paper said.

The paper said it had evidence that On July 18, a flight transporting \$753,645 worth of arms landed at Gorna in Zaire. The Rwandan Embassy in Paris financed this flight with the sum of \$175,000 and the Rwandan Embassy in Cairo with a sum of \$578,645."

In July 1994, Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front seized the capital, Kigali, routing Huta government troops and extremist militia forces.

#### BRIEFLY

## 6 Iraqis Implicated In Jordan Attack

AMMAN, Jordan - Six Iraqis, including one with diplomatic status, have been implicated in the attempted assassination Jan. 3 of the lragi commercial attaché in Jordan, a semior judicial source said Monday. Four of the Iraqis were arrested on Thursday.

The source said the motives for the attack on Rahim Taher, 45, were "family-related and financial with no political implication."

Mr. Taher was unburt when fired at from a passing car at his home on Jan. 3. Four of the suspects have been arrested.

#### Hostage Release Seen in Colombia

BOGOTA -- Protesting prisoners were to meet local officials at a jail in southwest Colombia on Monday and were expected to release soon 567 visitors they have held hosinge for almost 24 hours, prison sources said.
The police said that the hostages,

most of them wives of inmates, were not in danger and that many had voluntarily stayed in the San Isidro jail in Popayan, to back their husbands' demands for improvements to jail conditions. (Reuters)

## Mobutu Ally Seized

KINSHASA, Congo — A businessman who was a close ally of the ousted Zaire dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, has been arrested in Kinshasa, family members said on Monday.

Bemba Saolona, head of the business association in the former Zaire, was arrested on Saturday in his house in the capital's Gombe district by a group of soldiers with an arrest warrant and taken to Kinshasa's main prison, they said. More than 30 Mobutu allies, in-

chiding directors of state enterprises, have been arrested since Laurent Kabila took power in May. (Reuters)

## Mexican Aide Held

MEXICO CITY — The top police official of Chiapas state has been arrested for transporting and delivering weapons to civilians, inchiding a man charged with the recent Acteal massacre, the attorney general's office said here Monday.

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THROUGHOUT much of this century. L the Soviet regime barred Western diplomats and tourists from visiting large swaths of the country. In 1992, the newly independent Russian government signed an agreement with the United States that allowed access to these once-forbidden zones. Mark Taplin, an American diplomat in Moscow during the mid-1980s. seized the opportunity to explore life in the hinterlands, and "Open Lands" is the intermittently illuminating but frequently

frustrating record of his journeys. These obscure regions, Taplin tells the border with Mongolia.

us, sheltered secrets ripe for exposure.

nuclear tests gone awry, killer chemical spills, ethnic riots. . . . Was there a truer expression of Russia's past - and its future — in those forbidden places of the Soviet era?"

American would have trouble locating Moscow or St. Petersburg on the map, almost no one would be able to place Vorkuta, a desolate town above the Arctic Circle to which the regime shipped thousands of "enemies of the people." Or Tuva, a semi-autonomous republic near

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Ivanov

17 Qc6 18 e5 19 Kf1

21 Re4 22 Rae1

23 Re5

24 Qe4 25 Rd1

31 Qe2 32 Qd2

to do about it? After 12. . .ed, 13 cd Bf3

14 Nf3 g5? 15 Ng5! hg 16 Bg5 Re6 17 e5 de 18 de Qd4 19 Qd4 Bd4 20 bf6 Bb2 21

threatening 20...Bf2! But Ivanov quietly

Finegold could not well play 16. . .c5 because 17 Qc6 Rad8 18 a4 a5 19 Rad1

Re6 20 Rd5 Rde8 21 Rf5 Qe7 22 rf4 not

only wins the h4 pawn but also powerfully threatens 23 Nh4 and 24 Nf5.

with 17. . Rg8. but Ivanov defended

efficiently with 18 e5 Qf5 19 Kf1! It

would now have done no good to play 19. .Qd3 20 Re2 because 20. . Rg2? is

After beating back Finegold's attempts

with 25 Rd1. With the simple but effective

real counterplay and gave up.

He was hoping for a mating attack

rad1 wins for White

Finegold

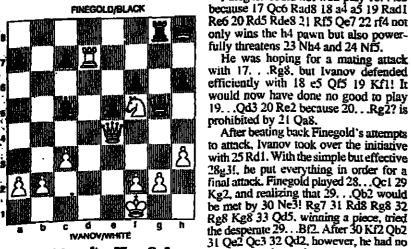
Rg8 Qf5 Qg6 Qg5 Rae8 Re5 de

By Robert Byrne

Lov of Brookline, Massachusets, beat Ben Finegold of Southfield, Michigan.

After 8 Bh4, a subtlety, in which this defense abounds, is that 8...g5?! 9 Ng5!
Ne4 (9...hg 10 Bg5 d6 11 Bc6 bc 12 de
de 13 Qd8 Rd8 14 Bf6 wins material for White) 10 Nf3 Ng5 11 Ne5 Ne5 12 Bg5 Og5 13 f4! yields White a powerful attack. Another, this time winning for Black, is that, on 8...d69 Bc6 lx, 10 de

Finegold tried for an attack with 12., Bf3 13 Nf3 g5 14 de gh 15 ef Qf6, intending to answer 16 Qc6 by 16. Th3! Ivanov's new wrinkle was to play 12 17 e5 Qg6 18 Nh4 Qc2! 19 Rf1 Qb2, Qa4!? without first clarifying the center with 12 de de. What was Black supposed put a crimp in his ambition with 16 h3.



Position after 27 . . . Qg5

labor camps, rocket silos, testing sites, closed research facilities, tank factories, air bases, and so on," he writes. There were also plenty of rumors of

The seven regions Taplin visits are certainly far enough afield. If the average

#### **CHESS**

N the diagramed game Alexander Ivan-

Finegold chose the Berlin Defense to the Ruy Lopez with 3. ... Nf6 and with 4. .. Bc5, which was analyzed as early as 1480. On 6 d4, it would be a terrible positional blunder to give up the center with 6...ed? 7 cd Bd6 8 e 5 Ne8 9 d5. On

6. Bb6 7 Bg5 h6, it would not accomplish anything special for White to play 8 Bf6 Qf6 9 Bc6 qc6 10 Ne5 Qe4 11 Nd2 Qf5 12 Nec4 d5.

de 11 Qd8 Rd8 12 Ne5 g5 13 Bg.: Ne4 14 Ne6 Ba6! 15 Nd8 Rd8 16 Re1 f5! 17 Na3 Rd2 gives Black a terrific attack.

Everyone knew that out there were moments. Taplin is, for the most part, a thousands upon thousands of prisons, congenial guide, and he captures the labor camps, rocket silos, testing sites, absurdity of such events as an inter-expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty national — and rain-soaked — street theater festival in Arkhangelsk, a barren city in the country's northern reaches. His terror during an all-night truck drive with drunken caviar smugglers in Kamchatka is palpable, and he paints an affecting portrait of an old woman who longs for an American soldier she met decades earlier. Moreover, anyone who has spent

much time in Russia will recognize the vodka-addled seatmates on seemingly endless train rides, the dour museum guides parroting the official line, the overzealous host whose "program" for his overnight guests leaves no room for the pleasures of serendipitous discovery. Taplin also doles out some interesting and little-known historical nuggets, such as an account of American soldiers who fought the Reds during the chaotic period after World War L

But more often than not, Taplin fails to infuse his picaresque escapades with deeper insights into the reality of Soviet and post-Soviet life. His descriptions of uncooperative bureaucrats, brash entrepreneurs, unappetizing meals and dilapdated hotels - standard features of the travel-adventure genre - wear thin after a while. He often appears more enamored of his own reactions than of the lives of the people he encounters. The Russians themselves frequently come across as caricatures rather than individuals with complex - and complicatedly human -

dilemmas, motivations and emotions. That's a shame, because the potential questions are both tantalizing and obvious: How did it feel to be so cut offfrom the rest of the world for so many decades? What did they imagine of life elsewhere? Given their isolation, how did they manage to construct for themselves some semblance of a life?

Taplin's narrative voice can also be grating. His efforts at lyrical description often fall flat. And at times he adopts the persona of an American naïf - Mr. Smith Goes to Russia? - who finds himself outraged at Soviet-style corruption, obtuseness or just plain incompetence. His indignation at these moments, such as when he berates a television executive in Tuva for broadcasting American films without permis-

sion, seems smug and disingenuous. The promotional materials for "Open liken it to "Lenin's Tomb," Lands' David Remnick's Pulitzer Prize-winning study of the collapse of the former Soviet Union. It is an audacious - and unfortunate -- comparison, Taplin never comes close to matching that book's graceful style and deft political analysis. His effort adds somewhat to our understanding of life away from Russia's

political center, but very little lingers in

the mind once the last page is turned. David Tuller, a former reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and the author of "Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia." wrote this for The Washington Post.

Even that first round remains controversial. The Senate has yet to approve the admission of Poland, the Czech Reis expected in the spring.

cognizant not only of Moscow's con-cerns but also those of skeptical NATO allies and American senators. "The Russian response so far." one

been surprisingly quiet and matter-of-American officials have begun to brief Russian officials in Washington on

negative public reaction after the signing In its most contentious and intensely negotiated section, the charter promises the Baltic nations that Washington will

But there is significant opposition to their membership on political and military grounds, and officials say the issue is not likely to surface during the presidencies of Mr. Clinton and Boris

the charter make clear, as it now does in its final version, that any Baltic membership of NATO will depend not only on each country's readiness to join, but also on NATO's determination that including any Baltic country "would serve the overall strategic interests of the alliance.

just in the interest of the Baltic states. It must be in NATO's interests.

views, the diplomat said, membership will depend in large part on how well the Baltic countries themselves improve their relations with Russia. That, he predicted, will take a decade or longer.

defend themselves.

JAH60 156

# NATO: U.S. and 3 Baltic Nations to Sign Long-Term Charter

Organization.

public and Hungary. A vote on that issue The Baltic charter has involved a year of diplomatic work, with negotiators

senior administration official said, "has

the text of the charter and expect a more

do everything possible to get them ready to join NATO and supports their efforts to do so.

Yeltsin of Russia. America's NATO allies insisted that

A senior diplomat from a NATO country said: "Membership must not be

Had Washington pushed Baltic membership now, he said, it would have seriously worsened larger European strategic interests. While NATO countries have different

That is why some critics suspect that the White House wants to have it both

Holding a highly public event with the Baltic leaders and emphasizing that NATO's door remains open is important for American principles as well as for domestic political concerns.

Refusing to recognize the Soviet an-nexation of the Baltic nations, which followed the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939, Washington preserved their embassies here. And since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Washington has worked hard to get Russian troops out of the Baltics, to promote economic and political stability and to help give the Baltic countries some idea of how to

At the same time, Washington's

that Baltic membership in the alliance is put off for the foreseeable future. Ojars Kalnins, Latvia's ambassador to Washington, sees the charter as "a cul-

since independence." While the Baltic countries would have liked more specifics on NATO membership, he said, they did not expect it. The charter also establishes some

new, concrete institutions: a four-party "partnership commission" of the United States and the Baltic nations, to be led by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott; individual working groups on economic development to be formed by Washington and each Baltic state, to be led on the American side by Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, and similar working groups, already established, on defense issues

This charter, a senior U.S. official said, is intended to give each Baltic nation "a perspective for the future, to reassure them they are not being forgotten and that they have a level playing field for future NATO expansion."

We want to show them that they are part of the vision and part of the process," the official said. That vision, he explained, is that of a

fully integrated Europe, where the Baltic nations can become members of all European and trans-Atlantic institu-The Americans have told the Baltic governments explicitly not to expect to be part of any second round of NATO expansion. Washington would like to see such a round in 1999, assuming that

for the Poles, Hungarians and Czechs.

political and moral "litmus test" of the U.S. strategy for a peaceful and democratic Europe, "whole and free."

In the last year, officials of NATO mination of the last six years of the countries say, Moscow has sharply extraordinary U.S.-Baltic relationship toned down its pressure on and statements about Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and is concentrating more on regional economic cooperation with all countries on the Baltic Sea.

Moscow originally insisted on a U.S. commitment that the Baltic states would never join NATO. But in his meeting in Helsinki in March 1997 with Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Clinton refused to rule out Baltic membership. Mr. Yeltsin proved willing to sign a formal agreement of understanding with NATO anyway, breaking the logjam of Russian opposition to the first round of NATO expansion, which was announced in Madrid in July. The Russians, through Prime Minister

Viktor Chemomyrdin in July and Mr. Yeltsin in late October and again last month in Stockholm, have moved to offer the Baltic nations "joint security guarantees" alongside Western and NATO guarantees, so long as the states agree not to join NATO, remaining nevtral on the model of Finland. Russia is also offering normalization

putes, including tacit permission, if any were needed, for Baltic countries to join the European Union or any non-NATO organization. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

of relations and an end to border dis-

has told Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia that Washington and Moscow should simply agree to disagree on the possibility of future Baltic memthe Senate and the legislatures of other NATO members approve membership bership in NATO and work together instead on regional economic and en-Washington has told Baltic leaders vironmental cooperation.

# IRAQ: Saddam Threatens to Bar Inspector

### Continued from Page 1

hope the Iraqi authorities will not do anything precipitous and wait for Richard

Butler to get there," Mr. Annan said.

The official Iraqi press agency INA quoted an unidentified official spokesWhen Iraq expelled American and an Australian.—

When Iraq expelled American and an Australian.—

When Iraq expelled American and an Australian. man on Monday as saying that the presence of too many American inspectors was prolonging the inspections program and delaying removal of curbs on Iraq's

"The Americans who dominate the headquarters of the Special Commission and its activities in Iraq have been falsifying the facts, fabricating lies, deliberately prolonging the work, and submitting false reports to the Security Council," the spokesman said.

But Mr. Rubin said that "if Saddam Hussein can start to pick and choose who's on the team, he's going to try to start to pick and choose how the team operates, where it can go, who it can see, what time frame."

And you begin down a slippery slope," he said.

The announcement Monday came is a profession SCOM team."

after Mr. Ritter and his team had visited traqi government buildings near the headquarters of the UN Special Commission. Along with the nine Americans, the team included five Britons, a

When Iraq expelled American inspectors before, the United Nations withdrew all its inspectors in protest, and the United States began its military buildup. including 30 warships and more than 250 fighters and bombers.

The inspectors were allowed to return a week later under a Russian-brokered agreement. Inspections have resumed. but Iraq still refuses to allow inspectors into presidential palaces and other socalled sensitive sites.

The Clinton administration had expected a new test over that refusal. Iraq has called Mr. Ritter, who heads, one of several UN inspection teams, a CIA spy, an accusation that he and U.S.

officials have flatly rejected. Mr. Ritter "is not a spy." said the National Security Council official. "He is a professional member of the UN-

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And the second

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by the U.S. Senate, but not by the Russian Parliament. (AFP) Russian Parliament. Protests by Jobless Continue in France

agency said Monday.

PARIS — Jobless activists staged For the Record fresh protests across France on Monday as the leftist government struggled to prevent a growing social movement from spinning out of control.

Employment Minister Martine Aubry planned to meet the leaders of associations representing job-seekers

## BAENA, Spain - Manuel Cubillo had filled his glass and cleared his throat and was ready to test a syrup of an unspeakable vivid yellow-green. Big shirping sounds followed. Mr. Cubillo beamed.



Manuel Cubillo, olive oil taster, taking a sip at the German Baena plant.

Spanish farmers are outraged at the when Franz Fischler, the European plan because they say it would punish commissioner for agriculture, visited them for someone else's sins and cut subsidies that make producing olive

Spain's Olive Growers Erupt at EU

oil viable.

"The profit margin is already very small," said Joaquin Garcia, who heads the federation of farm cooperatives in Cordoba. He said a Spanish farmer receives \$4 a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of oil, \$1.65 of which comes from the European Union.

In Baena, a town of 20,000 people, where more than half live off their olive trees, farmers are not sitting still. Last summer, they helped organize a march in which more than 50,000 farmers and workers demanded that the Spanish government defend their interests. They were present a year ago when olive growers chartered 22 planes and flew to Brussels for the day to protest.

To old-timers here, whose faces are as lined as their beloved trees, the battle is a case of desk-bound bureancrats deciding about real-life issues they do not understand.

"You may get five kilos from one olive tree and 150 kilos from another," said Francisco Tarifa, a burly farmer who also heads the local cooperative. "How can you subsidize a tree? Some have one trunk, some four. They behave differently if you prone them or water them or kill the weeds."

Any remaining respect for the of-ficials in Brussels dissolved last year

commissioner for agriculture, visited Baena. Mr. Fischler, who is Austrian, gamely picked an olive from a branch, ate it raw like a cherry and pronounced it good.

That story is still prompting con-

tempt in a country where everyone knows that this bitter, indigestible fruit must be carefully pressed or cured in brine for weeks to become edible. 'Having a raw olive is like eating an implucked chicken or an uncooked potato," Mr. Tarifa scoffed.

For the Baena region, the next step is to take on Italy, which buys almost half of Spain's oil exports and bottles and resells them under prestigions Italian names. "We've been great at producing, but bad at selling ourselves," said Mr. Tarifa, demonstrating how his cooperative is copying some of Italy's best sales girmnicks.

He got permission from the Duke of Baena, who lives in Madrid, to use the duke's name and coat of arms. "There it is, on our grand reserve," he said, holding up a cut-glass bottle worthy of any boutique. "And, of course, the cloudier the better."

Just one thought: Did Mr. Tarifa ever put butter on his table? "Butter," be said, twisting his face. "It's terrible something worse. "Putting butter in food," he said darkly, "is a mortal sin."

# Britain and Ireland Offer Ulster Pact

BELFAST -- Britain and Ireland unveiled Monday far-reaching proposals for ending years of strife in Northern

They proposed a new intergovernmental pact, an elected Northern Ireland assembly and an all-Ireland ministerial conneil.

The proposals, which politicians from Protestant and Catholic parties will discuss further Tuesday, also envisaged changes to the lrish republic's constitutional claims over Northern Ireland and to the legislation by which London rules the province.

"It is a road map to agreement," the Irish foreign minister, David Andrews, said at a news conference after the proposals received a cantious welcome from the main Protestant and Catholic political parties, the Ulster Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

This breakthrough offers a new basis for discussion that both governments hope will enable progress," said Mo Mowlam, Britain's minister for the

The initiative was viewed as bringing a fresh burst of life to the peace process after a somber period when guerrilla killings strained the peace process.

Political analysts said the proposals would form a fresh agenda as the talks approach a May target set by London and Dublin for a solution.

A joint document proposed a "Brit-ish-Irish Agreement" to replace the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, an accord that Protestant pro-British parties have railed against. They said it gave Dublin an unwarranted say in day-today running of the British province. The new agreement would provide for



David Andrew and Mo Mowlam outlining the Ulster peace plan Monday,

an "intergovernmental council" of representatives from the two governments. the Northern Ireland assembly and devolved parliaments such as Britain is planning for Scotland and Wales.

A "North-South Ministerial Council" would decide matters of mutual interest between both parts of the island and be accountable to the Belfast as-

sembly and the Irish Parliament. Political analysts said the propositions mirror plans outlined in a "framework document" in 1995 in which Lon-

don and Dublin mapped out their vision

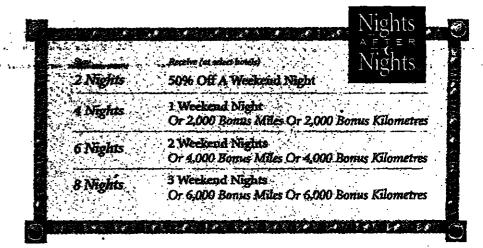
of how the rival communities might

Trimble, head of the powerful Prots estant Ulster Unionist Party, which says it is in the talks to bolster British rule said there was nothing in the paper that "obstructs or flatly contradicts the sort of outcome toward which we are work-

reach an accommodation. David

Mitchel McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which is conducting a cease-fire in a war on British rule, said that it was too early to talk in terms of a welcome but that his group would give the proposals careful study.

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# Aid on Holocaust Claims Is Found

By Marlise Simons

New York Times Service

bectic season for his palate and nose.

town at the heart of the biggest olive-

the rest of the family is down on the

ground, collecting the fruit falling on the sheets beneath the trees.

Outside the plant — called German Baena — for oil pressing and bottling where Mr. Cubillo works, farmers

lined up recently to deliver their loads of ripe olives. A heady, leafy aroma oczed from the crushing presses and filled the air. It might have been an

image of rural bliss and bounty. Ex-cept that in Baena and the hills beyond,

The farmers are angry at the European Union and its plan to reduce

olive-oil subsidies. Of the union's an-

nual subsidy of more than \$2 billion,

close to 40 percent goes to Spain, which will suffer most from any cuts.

in Brussels say that above all they want

to make changes to reduce fraud. In-

stead of paying a fee for oil reported to

come off the presses, officials in Brus-

sels argue that a more fraud-proof

method would be to count the

claimant's number of trees as a basis

EU inspectors see evidence of wide-

spread fraud in Italy where a small

fârm will commonly sell oil to a larger

one, with both then collecting sub-

sidies for the same produce. In Spain,

where 75 percent of the farmers sell to

cooperatives, a method that is more

transparent, the record is considered cleaner, though not impeccable.

Officials at the EU's headquarters

a rebellion is brewing.

New York Times Service NEW YORK ...... After World War II, Holocaust survivors and relatives of victims pressed insurance claims against German and Italian companies, which denied many of them because the claimants lacked death certificates. policy numbers or other documenta-

But now researchers have recovered from government and private archives documents that strengthen those claims and show how the top executives of the biggest German insurance company, Allianz AG, worked closely with the Third Reich to seize policies owned by Jews, to expand Allianz's business in conquered countries and to limit claims from riots the Nazis orchestrated to de-

stroy Jews' property.

The most significant document found, experts say, is a single copy of an Austrian state police report, a fill-inthe blanks form that is so apparently banal that researchers initially did not appreciate its significance, said Terrell Hunt, president of Risk International, a Houston company that does insurance

The 1940 document directs the Italian subsidiary of Allianz to turn over to the Reich Treasury the proceeds of a life insurance policy owned by Salomon Israel Koemer of Vienna.

Mr. Hunt said the numbering on the document suggested that it was one of tens of thousands of such documents in

Russian Duma Puts

MOSCOW - The State Duma,

Russia's lower house of Parliament,

does not plan to debate the U.S.-

Russian START-2 nuclear disarma-

ment treaty in its first six months of

work in 1998, the Itar-Tass press

The first deputy speaker of the Duma, Vladimir Ryzhkov, was

quoted as saying that "the fate of the START-2 treaty is still not clear."

Bush, the U.S. president at the time,

signed the treaty after the Strategic

Arms Reduction Talks in 1992. The

agreement has already been ratified

President Boris Yeltsin and George

START-2 on Hold

By David Cay Johnston the files of the state police in Austria. Koerner had indeed emigrated or was armed forces in March 1938 and incorporated into the German Reich. He believes these scizure documents have

been preserved in archives. "This document is the key for hundreds of thousands of people to make claims," Mr. Hunt said. "Its signif-icance is that it is a standard form on which the Nazis listed the name and company and the policy number, which the details needed to make a

Under a 1933 German law, the property of Jews who emigrated was confiscated. Jews who were deported to death camps were considered emigrants

under that law. The document is addressed to the management office for the German Reich" in the Vienna office of Riunione Adriatica di Sicurta, the Italian subsidiary of Allianz, indicating that the Nazis had their own personnel in the

offices of major insurers. Linda Gerstel, a partner at Anderson Kill & Olick, a New York insurance litigation firm working on a suit by Holocaust survivors and heirs of victims against Allianz and 14 other German and Italian insurers, said the document suggests that the Allianz subsidiary ac-

German law, the insurance company had a duty to inquire into whether Mr.

Despite the government's use of

force over the weekend to evict them

from about 20 memployment offices,

militants began a new wave of oc-

cupation attempts even as they urged

fresh protests for Tuesday. (Reuters)

Chirac Calls for Ban

On Gene Engineering

PARIS - President Jacques Chir-

ac appealed Monday for an interna-tional ban on human genetic engi-neering as officials of 19 European

countries signed an agreement out-

ning certain practices in one country

if scientists and doctors can simply work on them elsewhere," Mr. Chir-

ac said at a conference of Europe's

urday for a five-year ban on human

President Bill Clinton called Sat-

Germany has reached agreement

with the Jewish Claims Conference to

pay 200 million Deutsche marks (\$110 million) by 2002 into a fund to

compensate Holocaust survivors in

the former Eastern bloc, Chancellery

Minister Friedrich Bohl said. (AFP)

"Nothing will be resolved by ban-

lawing human cloning.

national ethics committees.

cloning experiments.

She said that even under the 1933

ted in bad faith, violating its duty of loyalty to its policyholder.

BRIEFLY

address of the insured, the insurance

company had gathered from war archives showed that rather than simply following orders from the Third Reich, there was "a formal collusion" between financial institutions and the Nazi government to loot assets. Risk International has been donating

Douglas Talley, a Risk International

lawyer, said that other documents the

its services, but Mr. Hunt said the firm needed to find a paying client to continue its work because of the volume of documents that need to be examined and cataloged to make claims. The significance of the document was

disputed by the senior spokesman for Allianz, Emilio Galli-Zugaro. He confirmed that tens of thousands of similar documents exist, but he said reparations the German government made to Holocaust survivors and victims' relatives after the war settled all claims.

"During the war it was normal - it is horrifying to say that now, but it was normal procedure then - to seize the insurance policies of Jews and give them to the Nazis," Mr. Galli-Zugaro said in a telephone interview from

"All survivors, of which there were not very many, and their heirs and those who could benefit collected their money" from the German government, he said. "Until this lawsnit was filed in New York last year, which hit us quite nnexpectedly, we had not had a claim made in 20 years."

The lawyer who filed the case, Edward Fagan of New York, said, "The suggestion that these people were paid by the German government is just pre-

He said that Allianz and other in-surers controlled the information needed to pay claims and relied on techmicalities to deny payment or to pay less than was owed.

Mr. Fagan and Ms. Gerstel are seeking a federal court order requiring Allianz and other insurers to open their files to them.

Allianz and most of the other 14 insurance companies named in the lawsuit have operations in the United States, which may make them subject to U.S. courts. Top Allianz executives who became

senior officials in the Nazi government were interrogated by U.S. investigators after the war. They described courting Nazi officials beginning in 1932 and making political contributions to the Nazis. Kurt Schmitt, who was the chief executive of Allianz in the early 1930s, became Hitler's first minister of economics, dined frequently with Hitler and his top aides and wore an SS uniform, the statements show.

When the Nazis conquered a country the assets of local insurance companies were taken over by Allianz and other German insurance companies and by Assicurazioni Generali, an Italian insurance company, a recently declassified report by American economic in-

telligence experts stated.
Mr. Galli-Zugaro said "there is no question" that Allianz sought to profit from the war, but he said the company never sought to profit from the Holo-

# **New Nuclear Danger**

The end of the Cold War has produced an alarming nuclear irony. Rus-duced an alarming nuclear irony. Rus-Progress in negotiating and ratifying sia is now more dependent on its nuclear weapons than ever, and at the same time those weapons are more (vulnerable. That increases the chances that in a severe crisis Moscow might consider using them. It is imperative for Washington to help reverse that on their own to take off high alert some trend, and Bill Clinton has the tools to do so, if he is willing to use them.

When the Cold War ended, the So-"viet Union had one of the largest land 'armies in the world, an abundance of conventional weapons and a nuclear strike force nearly equal to that of the United States. Since then, domestic polritics, economic problems and general neglect of the military have left Russia with a hollow conventional force. As that force has deteriorated. Russian milritary planners have placed increased emphasis on nuclear weapons, which are less expensive to maintain.

But steeply declining defense budgets have left even some of those weapons dangerously exposed. Most Russian ballistic-missile submarines are kept in port because it costs less to keep them idle than to put them to sea. That makes it easier for another country to knock out Russia's submarine -fleet NATO's ill-advised expansion, if approved, will bring Western forces closer to the Russian border. While a 'NATO strike against Russian nuclear weapons now seems unimaginable, the psychology of vulnerability on the Russian side is real.

The Clinton administration should

new arms reduction treaties has slowed. held back in part by the opposition of Communists and nationalists in the Russian Parliament and Republicans in the U.S. Senate. But President Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin can move of the 3,000 nuclear warheads that each side now has ready to fire at the other on short notice. George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev took a similar step with nuclear bombers and missiles in 1991. Such a decision would provide additional time for communication and diplomacy in a crisis.

About a third of American warheads could now be taken off alert without risking national security. Russia can be expected to reciprocate. Specifically, Mr. Clinton could order the launch keys for part of the MX missile force removed. MX guidance systems could be taken out of the missiles and stored in their silos. Silos could even be covered with heavy objects that would have to be removed before launching.

Several of these ideas have been proposed by Sam Nunn, the former senator from Georgia, and Bruce Blair of the Brookings Institution, and are viewed favorably by American mil-itary planners. All that is needed now is for Mr. Clinton to take political leadership on this issue. Reducing Russia's reliance on nuclear weapons ought to be a concern of the highest order for the Clinton administration.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Vietnam Slows Down

Since 1986, Vietnam has attracted tens of billions of dollars in foreign capital and sparked a noticeable rise in urban living standards by moving away from the rigid socialist economics bequeathed by Ho Chi Minh. But in recent years the reforming impulse has stalled. That trend was strengthened by the recent designation of General Le Kha Phieu as Communist Party chief, Vietnam's highest political post. He is a military conservative more interested in preserving political control than in liberating economic energies.

General Phieu is one of three new top officials named in the last four months to replace the aging leadership that carried the reforms through their most dynamic period. The others are Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, an economist closely associated with past reforms, and President Tran Duc Luong, a mining engineer.

Vietnam's economic reforms are far from complete and have not progressed nearly as far as China's. The needed next step is an aggressive sell-

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off of the nearly 6,000 remaining stateowned companies, many of which are closely linked to the army, General Phieu's power base. Also vital is an early devaluation of the currency, the dong, which bankers now estimate is 30 percent overvalued. That is a crippling burden on Vietnamese exports and a deterrent to foreign investment.

Vietnam's leaders are concerned by recent unrest in tural areas over complaints about low wages and corrupt local party officials. They see neighboring countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia being pressed by global lenders to accept painful economic adjustments. They dream of some middle course that would allow them the benefits of capitalist development without increased foreign influence and a weakening of domestic political control.

But such dreams are illusory, as other socialist countries trying to step halfway into the world market have discovered.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

# **On-Line and Ordinary**

The customary year-end surveys showing robust Internet growth more people using the Web and e-mail, more people calling the technology indispensable to their daily lives, more Europeans on-line, more electronic commerce - are finally starting to pick up more interesting patterns than mere hectic expansion.

The general impression they convey is that people are starting to settle down from faddishness into the use of technologies that help them do things they would do anyway.

A study by a small firm called the Emerging Technologies Research Group, after asking respondents what they had used the Net and the Web for during the past year (the top answers were news, hobbies, travel and entertainment), went on to ask them what additional uses they intended to make of the Net in the year to come.

This will be instantly recognized as a question about New Year's resfolutions, and in that context the answers do not so much herald new patterns of human behavior as confirm the continuation of old ones. Those answering the poll said they intend to pay more attention to on-line banking and personal investment, to use the Net more for adult education and to get more information from it about health and medicine.

There are also hints that, from an online society once composed mostly of fearsomely adept techies and clueless newcomers dependent on their service providers, the Net is slowly starting to develop something like a middle class. Another survey — from the Atlanta-based Graphic, Visualization and Us-

ability Center --- had the bright idea of polling separately for the opinions of novice, intermediate and expert users (with expens defined as those on the Net for four years or more).

The survey found perceptible differences in opinion among the three groups, notably a greater concern among novices than experts about privacy, with more novices than experts saying that new laws are needed to protect Net users' privacy.

More novices also expressed 'strong disagreement' with the proposition that vendors have a right to resell consumer information collected about Net users through "cookies" -bits of code that Web sites send into a visitor's browser in order to track the visitor's history of subsequent visits to the site. Surveyors expressed surprise at the number of users who seem reasonably well informed about what cookies are and how they work. About two-thirds were able to explain how their software is set up to deal with cookies (it can block them, accept them or send a warning message), and a quarter said they had altered the set-

ings themselves. It may be that fears of on-line vulnerability go down as people learn more about how to tweak their computers and how the whole mysterious

usiness works. While not definitive on the question of what should be done to protect Net privacy, this is yet another bit of evidence that people's behavior on-line, far from being strange and sciencefictionish, bears strong resemblances

# Herald Eribune

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NEW YORK — In his address to the American people via CNN last week, President Mohammed Khatami of Iran had kind words for the American Puritans, the Declaration of Independence and Abraham Lincoln. However, he made jolting criticisms of American

dialogue with the United States. He came close to expressing regret for the taking of hostages at the U.S. Embassy in 1979, but reminded his andience of the historical context in

foreign policy and rejected an official

which it occurred. He then listed Iranian grievances over American policy, some dating back nearly half a century. Few Americans listening to the interview would have recalled all his facts, much less their historical context.

His statements left unanswered many questions about the dynamics of Iranian politics. American analysts failed to predict his election last May, and each step that he has taken since has surprised us, underscoring the depth of our national ignorance about Iran. Now we can no longer even be certain that Iran's Supreme Guide, Sayed Ali Khamenei, is the unchallenged formulator of Iranian foreign policy.

By Richard W. Murphy and Nomi Colton-Max

Washington has responded positively to Mr. Khatami's address and included the appropriate reservation about the need for an official dialogue.

His denunciation of terrorism was welcome, as was his stated readiness to discipline any Iranian official whom he might discover to be involved in the funding of terrorist operations.

But Mr. Khatami summarily dismissed Washington's long-standing charges that Iran supports international terrorism ("unfounded") and violent opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process ("we do not support violence against the process, but it is not working") while pursuing a nuclear weapons program ("we do not have

and do not intend to have one").

This did not satisfy Washington. Presumably, only when official bilateral channels for dialogue have been established will the administration be prepared to discuss the evidence it says it has on all three counts.

Using the stale rhetoric of confrontation, Mr. Khatami characterized Is-

some foreigners believe that U.S. Middle East policy is decided in Tel Aviv and not Washington, may well have reflected his own views. It may equally have been designed to please a more local audience, both in Iran and

elsewhere in the Middle East. Such slurs do not negate the fact that Iran has long acknowledged the ex-istence of the state of Israel. This has been implicit in Iran's position that it would take no action to interfere with the peace process, and explicit in its acknowledgment of Syria's right to negotiate its own peace treaty with Israel.

Mr. Khatami asserted that the U.S. sanctions have stimulated the Iranian economy. Do the Iranians really not need to worry about U.S. economic pressure? Hardly. That pressure pushed the Iranian currency to near collapse in 1994-1995. But sanctions may have stiffened resolve to lower the foreign debt and inflation rate through voluntary embrace of tough IMF recommendations. The bottom line is that Iran has grown stronger. U.S. sanctions nev-

er enlisted wide international support. Did Mr. Khatami rule out govern-

rael as a "racist, terrorist" state. This ment-to-government talks for the thetoric, along with his assertion that present because he knew they could cause too much friction within Iran's leadership circle or because he is not yet prepared to discuss U.S. complaints? Glib U.S. punditry notwithstanding, we simply don't know.

He has proposed a broad exchange

of scholars, writers, artists, and tour-ists. This in itself is a good development in the relationship, and we hope that his government follows

through. Mr. Khatami has set the chessboard for a game restricted to private citizen exchanges, but of course only government-to-government talks will allow each county to deal with the issues that most concern it.

How long will this current chess game last? It would be nice to think it could be concluded in six months. Both countries could then really enjoy watching their soccer teams joust in the World Cup next summer.

Mr. Murphy is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, where Ms. Colton-Max is a research associate. They contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

# For Indonesians, the President Looks Like the Problem

By Adam Schwarz

WASHINGTON — Unem-ployment in Indonesia is set to soar in 1998, with growth plummeting, corporate layoffs a certainty and more than 2 million new job-seekers entering the work force. Indonesians, expecting more price rises, are fighting in the aisles of supermarkets and busy hoarding goods; looting is on the rise. For a leader whose principal prices. The drought afflicting claim to political legitimacy is parts of Java has already started economic growth, these are

dark days indeed. President Suharto has accomplished a great deal with Indonesia, turning a povertyracked backwater into a vibrant, confident developmental success story inside a generation. But as the Asian miracle has unwound, the underside of his authoritarian rule - corruption, nepotism, lack of trans-

parency and a feeble judiciary - has taken center stage. Indonesians largely overlooked these shortcomings while the economy grew year after year by more than 7 percent. But in the 1990s, as economic success raised expectations, dissatisfaction with Mr.

Suharto's aloof leadership style has been on the rise. Thailand and South Korea have both changed govern-ments since receiving IMF supart and thereby at the impression of a clean break with the past, but Indonesia has clung to the political status quo. The result is a profound crisis of ability to restore the market's

prospects. In short, he has come to be seen as the problem. The \$43 billion rescue package organized by the IMIF in October did not address the core concerns that the market has about Indonesia. It was overly concerned with macroeconomic targets and too little with fundamental structural changes.

In the negotiations with the IMF to restructure and accelerate the rescue package, Mr. Suharto will be pushing for le-

 $B_{\text{can}}^{\text{OSTON}}$  — The American Jewish community

has for many decades been a

force against intolerance.

Jews played a leading part in the fight against racial and re-

ligious discrimination in the

country. How surprising it is, then, to find today what can

only be called Jewish Mc-

Carthyism: the use of hateful

smears by a small band of

American Jews who want to

intimidate into silence those in

niency on meeting the IMF's first-family greed, such as the directive to produce a budget surplus. His primary political concern right now is to forestall mass-based opposition to his rule, and that means continuing budget subsidies to ensure adequate supplies of rice and other basic commodities at affordable

pushing prices higher. The IMF would do well to give ground on this point. Massive social unrest, a real risk, serves nobody's interest. But the price should be much stricter

conditions in other areas. The list should include a more far-reaching reform of the banking sector, with more independence for the central bank so that it is capable of enforcing its own rules.

As a sign of Mr. Suharto's commitment to genuine reform, the IMF should insist on the the more egregious examples of mine the survival of the leading laws to permit geographic con-ternational Herald Tribune.

monopoly on clove trading held by the president's youngest son and the unnecessary power plant project recently awarded to his eldest daughter.

The national car project should be scrapped immediately, and the expensive, so-called strategic industries under the purview of Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie should be reviewed.

Nontariff barriers and government regulations that restrict competition in plywood, petrochemicals and flour distribution should be eliminated, as should restrictions on foreign investment in banking, accounting and distribution. Legislative oversight on the awarding of government-funded infrastructure projects should

be enhanced, Finally, the IMF should elicit from Mr. Suharto a pledge to immediate ending of some of allow market forces to deter-

official resources to bail out the politically advantaged would again shatter confidence.

All these steps will be painful

deep into the system of patronage that has served him well for many years. But even if they are accepted and carried through, will they be enough? Or, as many in Indonesia now seem to think, is it simply not possible to construct a set of workable, sustainable reforms if they do not include funda-

mental political changes? This is the dilemma facing the IMF and the other contributors to Indonesia's rescue package, since politics lies outside the IMF's bailiwick.

It is easy enough to put together a list of initiatives that would help Indonesia's outdated political system catch up with the country's complex, modern economy: among oth-

corporate players. Any effort to use state bank funds and other political parties and independent labor unions; ceding more independence to the legislature and judiciary, and stripping the Information Ministry of the for Mr. Suharto; they strike right to unilaterally shut down newspapers and magazines.

It is hard at this stage to imagine Mr. Suharto taking these steps. He appears unwilling even to clear up the confusion over whether he intends to seek re-election to another five-year term in the election scheduled for March. While this political uncertainty persists, restoring confidence in Indonesia may well be impossible.

The political system created by Mr. Suharto has outlived its usefulness. Indonesia's recovery must begin with its reform.

The writer, Edward R. Murrow fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is author of "A Nation in Waiting: Indonesia in the 1990s." He contribers, changes in the electoral uted this comment to the In-

further destabilize the region or

of massive social and political

its plans for further conversion

to a market economy and re-

form of the state-owned indus-

tries. A defensive and nation-

alist China in the midst of a

region already deeply resentful

of the West is not good news.

danger to itself. Competition

and capital from Asia have been

essential to revitalize Western

economies and reform societ-

Third, a complacent West is a

# The West Should Be Alarmed and Involved:

By François Godement and Gerald Segal

ONDON - Like a fleet Lecaught in a raging storm, pear to be rudderless. Asia's silence and admission that it is not in a position to resolve the crisis are an extraordinary confidence in Mr. Suharto's event, which will create political instability and rekindle nafaith in Indonesia's economic

tionalist frustration. But what should we think of the West's silence?

While the Western powers can claim that they are acting through the IMF, the IMF is in fact conveniently taking the flak from all quarters and serving as a shield for the principals should events turn sour. There is far less grief about the events in Asia than many

Asians might have expected. The supposedly globalized The prospect of increased economy does not depend much trade deficits for the West's

on Pacific Asia, whose eco- consumer econom nomic demise looks like redumoderate threat. Interest from cing the GDP of OECD countries only slightly in 1998. There will be a slowdown in European and American sales to Asia, but supply-side costs

are falling much faster. Computers built in Penang, Malaysia, or Pusan, South Korea, will be much cheaper in 1998. In addition, capital flight from Asia is producing record falls in Western interest rates. In Europe, the Maastricht criteria

now appear likely to be overfulfilled. In the United States, the Federal Reserve can afford to relax about inflation.

that once looked improbable

Asian debt, and the prospect of attractive property takeovers in Asia, will satisfy many Europeans, but mainly Americans. In democratic systems where short-term results set the public mood, these trends are satisfying to elected politicians. Beyond these windfall pro-

fits, satisfaction in the West with the Asian crisis comes from a sense that those infused with Asian hubris were due to be cut down to size. Europeans were fed up with eing criticized for their stifling

social system, and Americans were exasperated by complaints about their acute individualism. Yet there are real and compelling reasons that should tone down this Western mood. First

is a scary possibility of a financial emergency in Japan. Japan has been much less exposed than expected, but it has failed to enact real financial and political reform. Domestic gridlock means that even its peerless exporters and its seemingly bottomless reserves would be

financial system. At a minimum, there is reason to worry that Japan will be able to provide far less capital worldwide.

Second, the Chinese shoe has yet to drop. China is already in the midst of a serious deflation,

ies. Without Asia's prodding, Detroit would still be far behind, and consumer goods on supermarket shelves in Europe would still be too expensive. Europeans and Americans need to be careful that their cool response to the Asian crisis does not let down many people in Asia. The educated and largely

democratically inclined citizens of Asia formed a compact with the West that now requires active Western support for continuing reform in Asian economies and political systems. Shortsighted Western lead-

ers who feel tempted to let Asians trickle down the drain might be losing their own bet on no protection against a run on its the future of global prosperity.

Mr. Godement is a senior research associate at the institut Français des Relations Internationales. in Paris, and Mr. Segal is director of studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in London, They with the prospect of either a contributed this comment to the sizable devaluation that would International Herald Tribune. contributed this comment to the

# IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Dreyfus Theory LONDON — The Times says:

"Our Paris correspondent sees in the condemnation of Captain Dreyfus an outburst of anti-Semitic prejudice. That such prejudice has been aroused by the proceedings is more than probable, but the theory that anti-Semitism suddenly exploded upon a particular and not very prominent individual does not carry complete conviction. It does not seem incredible, in view of the obscurity surrounding the history of that preposterous bordereau, that Captain Dreyfus is the victim of a plot

engineered by private malice." 1923: Hitler Response

BERLIN - In a curt and almost defiant reply to M. Poincaré's notification of the occupation of the Ruhr, the German Government declares that the French action is a violation of inter-

national law and of the Treaty of Versailles. Adolph Hitler, the Bavarian Fascist leader, shot a bolt in Munich, which has caused great disappointment in Government circles, waiting as they have been for his word as the most fiery incentive for resistance to France. "Why should we say down with France," Hitler hoarsely screamed, "when we should say, 'Down with the criminals

#### 1948: Gandhi to Fast

NEW DELHI — Spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi re-entered the Indian political

#### the community whose politto their behavior everywhere. ical views they dislike. —THE WASHINGTON POST. That is what underlies a flap over a planned lecture series on Israel at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The series was to be sponsored jointly by the Smithsonian and the New Israel Fund, which supports religious pluralism in Israel, civil liberties and Jewish-Arab coexistence.

A preliminary draft of the program included as speakers Thomas L. Friedman, the New York Times columnist, several professors from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, an Orthodox Israeli rabbi, an Arab member of the Knesset and two well-known figures in the conservative Likud Party. Among topics to said, contradicted the Smithbe discussed were the peace process, religion in Israeli life and the place of Arabs in Israel

- critical subjects today.

Last month the planned

series was denounced by an

organization called Americans

for a Safe Israel. It has no mass

By Anthony Lewis

well financed. It takes advertisements warning against concessions by Israel for peace with the Palestinians.

Shouting Down the Debaters

A press release issued by this group said the Smithsonian had been "doped" by the "far-left" New Israel Fund "into being used to attack an American ally." The attack was taken up by

the New York Post, Rupert Murdoch's right-wing tabloid. And a Republican congressman from Suffolk County, New York, Michael P. Forbes, wrote to the secretary of the Smithsonian, Ira Michael Heyman, that he was "shocked" at the planned program. It would "heap unfair and one-sided abuse on Amer-

ica's most trusted ally." Mr. Forbes denounced Mr. Friedman, saying he had heaped unjust and insulting criticism on Israeli leaders.' He objected to one proposed lecture title ("Jerusalem: To Unify a Divided City") because, he said, Israel had unified Jerusalem 30 years ago. "The propagation of blatantly anti-Israeli falsehoods." he

sonian's "noble purpose."
The extremity of the attacks on the planned series was matched by their foolishness. On Mr. Forbes's point about Jerusalem, for example: The city was indeed politically united by Israel, but anyone membership but is evidently who has been there knows that

it remains physically and psy-chologically divided between Jewish and Palestinian sectors. Bridging the division is a major challenge, and discussing that is hardly "anti-Israel." Mr. Friedman, with his

deep knowledge of and feeling for Israel, needs no defense against such critics. They really attack him because he believes that peace with the Palestinians is essential to Israel's future. So do hundreds of thousands of Israelis.

But Mr. Forbes is on the House Appropriations Committee, which passes on the Smithsonian's budget.

Last week the Smithsonian dropped the proposed series and ended its partnership with the New Israel Fund. It said it would plan on its own a lecture series on Israel.

The Smithsonian's craven retreat shows the price of weakness in Mr. Heyman's leadership. No intellectual institution, public or private, can do its job unless its leaders are prepared to stand up to the pressures of intolerance. The major Jewish organi-

zations also need to reflect on what happened in this affair. If the planned lectures needed broadening, that could easily have been done. The Anti-Defamation League was ready to do it, co-sponsoring the event with the New Israel Fund. But the voices of hate prevailed, suppressing the clash of ideas that is the life of

America - and of Israel.

The New York Times.

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of November 1918?

scene in another of his famous bids for Hindu-Moslem unity by announcing plans for a new fast to death. At his usual prayers he announced he would be gin his fast after breakfast to morrow [Jan. 13] in an attempt to bring the warring religious communities together.

OPINION/LETTERS

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Fig. 8 Magazines

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# A Morally Bankrupt Drug War

STANFORD, California — Twenty-five years ago, President Richard M. Nixon announced a "war on drugs."

Control of the state of the sta I criticized the action on both moral and expediential grounds in a Newsweck column, "Prohibition and Drugs":

"On ethical grounds, do we have the right to use the machinery of government to prevent an individual from becoming an alcoholic or a drug addict? For children, almost everyone would answer at least a qualified 'yes.' But for responsible adults, I, for one, would answer 'no.'

"Reason with the potential addict, yes. Tell bim the consequences, yes. Pray for and with him, yes. But I believe that we have no right to use force, directly or indirectly, to prevent a fellow man from committing suicide, let alone from drinking alcohol or taking drugs.'

That basic ethical flaw of the drug war has inevitably generated specific evils during the past quarter century, just as it did during America's earlier attempt at alcohol prohibition.

Can a policy be moral if it leads to widespread corruption, racism and urban decay, and brings death and destruction to foreign countries?

robbery and murder because the victims of those crimes have a strong incentive to report the crime. In the drug trade, the crime drugs, and many are driven to consists of a transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller. It is in the self-interest of both that the crime not be reported. That is why informers are spreading disease.

inevitably generate corruption as they did during Prohibition. They also lead to violations of the civil rights of innocent people and to the shameful practices of forcible entry and forfeiture of property without due process. Filling the prisons. In 1970.

By Milton Friedman

Today, 1.6 million people are in prison. Eight times as many in absolute number, six times as many relative to the increased population. In addition, 2.3 million are on probation and parole. The attempt to prohibit drugs is by far the major source of the horrendous growth in the prison. Dopulation.

Disproportionate imprisonment of blacks. Sher Hosonko, at the time Connecticut's director of addiction services, stressed this effect of drug prohibition in a talk given in June 1995:

"Today in this country we incarcerate 3,109 black men for every 100,000 of them in the population. Just to give you an idea of the drama in this number, our closest competitor for incarcerating black men is South Africa. South Africa — and this is pre-Nelson Mandela and under an overt public policy of apartheid—incarcerated 729 black men for every 100,000."

Destruction of inner cities. The use of informers. Informers Drug prohibition is one of the are not needed in crimes like most important factors that have combined to reduce our inner cities to their present state.
The crowded inner cities have a

comparative advantage for selling drugs. Though most customers do not live in the inner cities, most sellers do. Young boys and girls view the swaggering, affluent drug dealers as role models. Compared with the returns from a traditional career of study and hard work, returns from dealing drugs are tempting to young and old

Compounding the harm to users. Prohibition makes drugs exorbitantly expensive and highly uncertain in quality. A user must associate with criminals to get the become criminals themselves to finance the habit. Needles, which are hard to get, are often shared, with the predictable effect of

Undertreatment of chronic The use of informers and the momense sums of money at stake pain. The federal Department of Health and Human Services has issued reports showing that twothirds of all terminal cancer patients do not receive adequate pain medication, and the numbers are surely higher in nonterminally ill patients. Such serious undertreatment of chronic pain is a direct result of the Drug Enforcement 200,000 people were in prison in Agency's pressures on physicians who prescribe narcotics.

Our American drug policy has led to thousands of deaths and enormous loss of wealth in countries like Colombia, Peru and Mexico and has undermined the stability of their governments. All because we cannot enforce our laws at

If we did, there would be no market for imported drugs. There would be no Cali cartel. The foreign countries would not have to suffer the loss of sovereignty involved in letting our "advisers" and troops operate on their soil, search their vessels and encourage local militaries to shoot down their planes. They could run their own affairs, and we, in turn, could avoid the diversion of military forces from their proper

Can any policy, however high-minded, be moral if it leads to widespread corruption, imprisons so many, has so racist an effect. destroys our inner cities, wreaks havoc on misguided and vulnerable individuals and brings death and destruction to foreign coun-

The writer, a Nobel laureate in economics, is a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Helping Algeria

Regarding "Algeria's Terror" Editorial, Jan. 10):

The editorial was incorrect in stating that Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "is offering to mount a serious on-site inspection of the Algerian

The high commissioner has expressed her concern a number of times about the level and nature of the violence in Algeria and has welcomed the recent statements of concern by the European Union, the United States and Canada. However, she has not herself pro-

posed to carry out an inspection. Instead, Mrs. Robinson has given her support for visits to Algeria by the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and by the special rapporteur on torture. These independent human rights experts, with mandates decided by the 53 governments of the Commission THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

on Human Rights, had expressed their wish to visit Algeria well of America, over two centuries, is before the recent upsurge in attributable in large part to the killings. Their reports go to the commission and to the United Nations General Assembly.

The high commissioner believes human rights are properly a matter for international concern; shares the widespread dismay at the loss of life and devastation to communities, and supports efforts to engage the Algerian government in a manner that will improve the protection of the people are populated by the folks the in that country. JOHN MILLS.

The writer is a spokesman for

**Immigrants' Strength** 

the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Human Rights.

Regarding "Why America Is quality of life sup Doing So Well" (Opinion, Jan. 5) the United States. by Charles Krauthammer:

I endorse Mr. Krauthammer's

view that the continued strength continuous infusion of new blood by immigrants who have the extra "something" that leads them to give up what they know and to travel in search of a better

I disagree, however, with Mr. Krauthammer's implication that this flux of immigrants has left the rest of the world with less dynamic people ("Europe and Asia gamblers left behind").

He forgets that there have been mass migrations to Europe, Asia and South America, as well as among and within these conti-

Also, I can attest that, like Americans, the Dutch have a creative and strong economy and live comfortably. In fact, they enjoy a quality of life superior to that in

J. DONALD OSTROW.

# Why Man's Best Friend Belongs in the Office

By Daniel S. Greenberg

rabble will never end, but recent events indicate that the tide is shifting in favor of dogs.

The business world, according to many reports, is finally awakening to the psychological benefits of dogs and other pets

#### **MEANWHILE**

spending the workday with their human friends. For both dog and human, it's all gain.

Ben, our Labrador retriever, finds nothing special about office life. For nearly a decade, as successor to another Lab, he has occupied a place in my home office and is accustomed to the clacks and beeps of office machinery and the comings and goings of vis-itors. Most of the time he dozes under my desk. But if a telephone conversation becomes a bit loud or agitated, he looks up with an expression that therapeutically suggests "Cool it."

As previously reported in con-nection with Ben's predecessor, the presence of a dog is comforting whenever a snippy secretary for some eminence icily inquires, "Who are you with, Mr. Greenberg?" I can reply: "I'm with my dog. Who are you with?"

In the corporate setting, the motivation for admitting dogs is the bottom line: Happy workers make more money for their bosses, and a beloved dog nearby, rather than locked up at home, contributes to worker happiness. The trend is most advanced in the economically sizzling Silicon Valley, where job seekers enjoy an abundance of options. And more are opting for jobs that welcome dogs in the office.

The march of dogs inevitably evokes fear-mongering by dog haters, who bring up dirt, com-bativeness and other unpleasantries as reasons for excluding dogs. Their arguments are nonsensical. If dogs fail to behave properly they should be barred - as usually is the case with people who misbehave.

An aversion to dogs often is accompanied by a streak of irrationality, as I observed in a raging canine controversy in the cauldron of democracy in urban America ... a condo meeting, which I attended as sort of a friend

WASHINGTON — America's ancient conflict between dog lovers and the anti-dog which was far in excess of the 24pound limit arbitrarily written into the condo bylaws.

'The law is the law,'' the antidog contingent chorused as they demanded his eviction. But the law can be changed, I argued, urging the members to base acceptability on behavior rather than weight. Humans have been ousted from the building for persistent rowdiness and other unacceptable behavior, I pointed out, but never for being overweight — a standard that, if applied, would produce more than a few vacancies. It was a lost cause. Out went the

innocent dog and his owner. Despite that setback, the overall trends are encouraging. Consider, for example, a wonderfully helpful directory for travelers with pets, "Take Your Pet USA: A Guide of Accommodations for Pets and Their Owners," which lists more than 4,000 hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts nationwide that welcome pets.

They inspire attention to the next front for expanding canine access: restaurants. The response to the predictably vehement arguments against dogs in restaurants is that they are legally present in eating establishments of all kinds in France.

In many British pubs, a standard character is a big dog that waddles among the crowd, sampling food and even sharing a glass of beer with a triendly patron. The French and British are no worse off healthwise than the dog-

banning Americans. Just as a worker shortage and competitive considerations have opened the workplace to dog owners, the same could happen in the restaurant industry. The battle cry on this canine front should be: "If you want me as a customer, accept

my well-behaved dog." But public opinion first must be mobilized against the outdated and unrealistic "health" regulations that exclude animals from public dining facilities. The progress so far proves that with unrelenting pressure it can be done.

The writer is editor at large of Science & Government Report, a Washington newsletter. He contributed this comment to The

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for Sustainable Development

# Opposition to IMF Loans in Asia Mounting in U.S. Congress

By Lizette Alvarez New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is facing a growing wave of congressional opposition from conservatives and some liberals over its plan to bail out financially ailing Asian countries by funneling billions of dollars through the International Monetary

Representative Bill Archer, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in a broadcast interview

Continued from Page 1

um player, and Mr. Packer, who is in a top tier of gamblers known as whales.

Premium players, who typically wager from \$100,000 to \$250,000 a

visit, number in the thousands. But whales, who gamble more than \$1 mil-

lion per visit and who may have lines of

credit up to \$20 million and win up to

\$26 million in one visit to a casino.

number only about 250 in the world,

The competition for the top high

rollers is global, and because wealthy

gamblers are also aggressively pursued by Asian and Australian casinos, Amer-

ican casinos "are trying to compete

with these markets in a way that has

never been seen before," said Robin Farley, a gaming industry analyst at BT

Alex. Brown Inc. "A lot of capital is being invested in high-end play."

Along Las Vegas Boulevard,

temples of opulence are rising to attract

wealthy gamblers. The Las Vegas

Hilton recently spent \$44 million to

build three suites to house its biggest

bettors, and Caesars Palace, another favorite of high rollers, spent \$13 mil-

Mirage Resorts recently spent about

\$150 million on art, including paintings by Renoir, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh

and Picasso. They hang behind the fros-ted-glass doors of the Mirage's high-

stakes gambling room, but next year the

company plans to move the paintings to

the Bellagio, a \$1.8 billion hotel and

casino it is building to cater to big

lion on two luxury suites.

those who recruit them say.

**VEGAS:** Staking Out the High Rollers

money than ever courting people like development project will include a Mr. Willis, who is considered a premibuilding housing 30 private villas

at the end of January.

"I think Congress is going to look at it very, very carefully, and weigh the conditions that are put in by the IMF to determine whether it truly does stabilize these countries and whether it is in the best interest of this country," Mr. Arch- of the policy from both parties. er, Republican of Texas, said. "I think

it's still an open issue" To that end, Senator Lauch Faircloth, Republican of North Carolina, called Republican aides to a meeting on Wednesday to rally support against the adthat Congress would take a close look at ministration's request for \$18.5 billion the IMF loans to Indonesia, South Korea for the Fund. At the meeting, Mr. Fair-

> Farther down the Las Vegas strip, at the MGM Grand, a \$700 million re-

building housing 30 private villas called the Mansion, where guests can

step into a gigantic courtyard that ap-

pears to be outside but is actually enclosed under a climate-controlled

dome. "Even the air they breathe will be exclusive," Ms. Farley said.

richest gamblers, major U.S. casino companies have offices in Hong Kong. Taiwan, Singapore and Sao Paulo.

To stay close to some of the world's

Because so many high-stakes gam-

blers come from Asian countries, in-

dustry executives and Wall Street ana-

lysts are trying to gauge what effect Asia's deepening economic crisis will have on the casino business.

search report.

has got to be kidding.

to their every need.

"Will the currency crisis beach the whales?" Ms. Farley wrote in a re-

The president of Caesars Atlantic

City, Mark Juliano, said, "Anybody

who tells you the economic crisis is not

going to have an effect on their business

So far, there are few signs that the

opments in Asia.

The next day, Representative Bernard said on CNN.
Sanders, a Vermont independent, plans The Clinton to hold a second meeting, together with an environmental group, to unite critics

The announcements Sunday followed by a day a statement by Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, that chairman of the Senate Banking Com-mittee, that his panel would hold hearings on Jan. 26 on the rescue loans.

tions about the current U.S. policy and

and Thailand when it returns from recess cloth, a critic of the loans, will be briefed the readiness with which we are provid-at the end of January. cloth, a critic of the loans, will be briefed the readiness with which we are provid-ing funds to bail out some very uning funds to bail out some very unleader of the minority Democrats in the disciplined investors," Mr. D'Amato House, Dick Gephardt of Missouri,

> The Clinton administration wants Congress to approve legislation that would make an extra \$3.5 billion available to the monetary fund for emergency lending, and \$15 billion to help replenish depleted fund accounts. The monetary fund put together the rescue plans during the last six months to help Asian markets.

Opponents say taxpayers should not "I have some very serious reserva- are responsible for their own economic

But in a gesture of solidarity, the spoke up in favor of the policy and urged Democrats to work with the Clinton administration to ensure that the International Monetary Fund gets the money

Mr. Gephardt led a fight last year against President Bill Clinton's request for enhanced trade-negotiating anthor-

'There's no sense for us in having be compelled to bail out countries that these countries go bankrupt," he said. "It will hart our workers. It will hart our

# Cohen Rejects Curbs on U.S. Forces in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR - The U.S. military will not accept any restrictions on its freedom of movement in the Asia-Pacific region, even from well-inten-tioned friends and allies, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday.

"I would like to be very clear in stating the United States will not support initiatives that would either undermine our operational flexibility or constrain our military posture," he said at a forum of political and defense experts in the Malaysian capital.

Mr. Cohen said flexibility of movement was vital to the effectiveness of U.S. warships and other forces, which he termed a bulwark of security and presperity in Asia.

He said that the Pentagon was con-cerned about informal proposals for confidence building measures.

U.S. officials said such measures, put forth by some officials of the Association of South East Asian Nations, could require advance notice of the size and timing of U.S. force movements.

Responding to questions from reporters, Mr. Cohen declined to be more specific. But a senior official with Mr. Cohen on a 12-day tour of seven Asian states said that while such proposals were often "well intentioned," they were not productive.

"I must tell you we do have some concern about certain proposals for military confidence-building measures that are sometimes circulated. And they are measures that could lead to operational constraints on our military presence in the region," he said.

"Our value to our presence in the region depends upon our operational flexibility and the reassurance and deterrence that that flexibility provides."

Mr. Cohen said that the United States

appreciated basing-rights and other mil-itary support provided by members of ASEAN and other allies in the region. and that Washington would welcome additional support.

He stressed that the United States was a friend of Asia's and would remain so even in times of economic turmoil, such as in recent months.

Mr. Cohen held talks Monday with Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathu bin

The secretary will wind up the first leg of his tour on Tuesday and fly to Indonesia for security talks with President Suharto on Wednesday. He will later go to Singapore, Thailand, China, Japan and South Korea before returning to "This is a public company that mis-Washington on Jan. 22.

He flew to Malaysia on Sunday from Washington at the start of a major security tour that will include talks with leaders throughout the region, including President Jiang Zemin of China.

The secretary stressed to reporters traveling with him that the United States could signal a meltdown of Hong was a major economic and security fig-Kong's banking industry, with many lo-ure in Asia and that 100,000 U.S. troops would remain in the Asia-Pacific region for the foreseeable future.

He is in the region chiefly to discuss military and security issues, at the same said. "It's a securities and investment time that Deputy Treasury Secretary firm. So what happened does not have Lawrence Summers is in Asia to hamtime that Deputy Treasury Secretary Until the weekend, Mr. Tose and others much impact on Hong Kong's banking mer home the point that the financial crisis can end only with reforms.



A suite at the Las Vegas Hilton, where the world's wealthiest gamblers receive invitations to stay.

competition for premium gamblers and whales is slowing. Well-paid marketing executives, or "player development" people, continue to travel around the world, calling on wealthy gamblers, offering them expensive gifts, corporate jets to fly them to the casinos, lavish accommodations, huge lines of credit for gambling and a discount on Hilton. The whales are not sighted in Atlantic City as often, but the Taj Mahal and Caesars are their preferred destheir losses. Once the gamblers are on tinations there.

"We roll out the red carpet," said ancier who is Kurt Ouchida, spokesman for The richest citizens. Venetian, a \$2 billion Las Vegas hotel Other well-k the casino premises, 24-hour butlers are at their service, and personal hosts cater The places most frequented by and casino that is currently under con- members of Malaysia's Quek family, ette table for each spin.

whales and premium players in Las struction with plans to focus especially Vegas are the Mirage, the MGM Grand, on premium gamblers. "These people Caesars Palace and the Las Vegas are treated like princes and royalty during their stay.

One of the most widely recognized and wealthiest whales in the world is Mr. Packer, the media tycoon and financier who is one of Australian's

which has holdings in real estate, banking and manufacturing; the Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, who, according to one casino executive, arrives in town with an entourage that includes his barber and masseuse; and Sultan Muda Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, one of the world's richest men. One Las Vegas casino executive said the sultan Other well-known whales include placed \$250,000 chips all over a roul-

# PEREGRINE: Leading Investment Bank Collapses, a Victim of Cronyism and Asian Financial Meltdown

Continued from Page 1

key political mover as the vice-chairman of the ruling Golkar Party. Among other business interests, Mrs. Rukmana controls an Indonesian toll-road company, and when she decided to lend her name - and patronage - to a local taxicab entrepreneur as part of an equity swap, Peregrine's troubles then began.

The taxicab franchise holder is Yopie Widjara, an ethnic Chinese-Indonesian educated in Australia with grandiose plans and a reputation, among those who know him, as a smooth-talking wheeler-

Philip Tose and Peregrine gave money to Mr. Yopie — lots of it, about \$260 million of cash, in the form of an unsecured bridge loan, as the cost of underwriting bonds in Mr. Yopie's Steady Safe taxicab company.

Mr. Yopie had big dreams of becoming "a transportation czar," as one broker put it. His ambition was to create a series of car ferries linking the islands of Indonesia's sprawling architelago.

Mr. Yopie took Steady Safe public around 1994, and its stock soon soared - particularly after Mrs. Rukmana gave him the Suharto family's tacit seal of approval. Then, to finance his big plans, he decided in 1996 to go to the off-shore bond market, and he needed a big-name underwriter.

"He's done a lot of road shows around the world," said an economist in Jakarta who knows Mr. Yopie, "and he sucked in a lot of good investors.'

How Peregrine got sucked in by Mr. Yopie is one of the remaining mysteries of the Peregrine saga. His Steady Safe company's stock was high enough at the time to make it seem a good risk.

More likely, it was the Suharto connection, through Mrs. Rukmana, that made Steady Safe seem a steady and safe bet for Peregrine, which had a reputation in Asia for aggressive risk-taking, particularly in the relatively new but lucrative currency and debt markets.

The head of Peregrine's "debt team" is an American, Andre Lee, who came to Peregrine from Lehman Brothers. Under Mr. Lee's direction. Peregrine won the job of selling the "Steady Safe" bonds, after agreeing - incredibly, say rivals in the industry — to underwrite them to the tune of a \$260 million bridge loan. That amount represents a third of Peregrine's

capital.

Mr. Lee is described as an aggressive also said in Tokyo that Indonesia show press ahead with the IMF program. player in the Asian debt, or "dragon bond," market. But they also say that Mr. Lee is no Nick Leeson, a reference to the rogue trader who's secret dealings in Singapore brought down Barings PLC. Mr. Lee's superiors at Peregrine most certainly were involved in all his decisions, analysts say.

"This had to go to Philip Tose - what the hell was he thinking?" said an analyst in Jakarta. "On a strictly financial basis, it doesn't make any sense - unless Philip Tose was up to something else." The analyst added, "I'm totally

Another analyst at a risk consultancy said, "I really don't know why they would have done that."

Added another chief researcher with an established brokerage in Hong Kong - one with long experience in Indonesia and who knows Mr. Yopie and the other players well: "Steady Safe was a company backed by Suharto's daughter."

"It's a classic financial mania," he Steady Safe could never be able to repay said. "You live in a little world of greed, and everybody around you is interested in spinning the story to make the greed sound like a good investment."

For Peregrine, the story started spinning out of control when the financial crisis hit Asia last summer. Peregrine was stuck with bonds no one wanted to buy, as their traditional Asian investors turned away.

lowing Thailand's move — and the bot- after making a single bad bet. rupiah is now over 8,000 — meaning ald Tsang.

Association warned Monday in a report to members of Parliament that all

ted and a possible source of food poi-

soning.
"The current state of food safety in

Britain is such that all raw meat should

be assumed to be contaminated with

pathogenic organisms." the report said.

It said that the number of cases of

raw meat should be considered infec- cooking raw meat," the report said.

its "bridge loan" to Peregrine. Steady Safe stock is now virtually

worthless, from a high of 3,240 rupiah per share a year ago to about 300 per share now — in dollar terms, a plunge from \$1.37 then to 3 cents now. No one can say for certain where the

went. Hong Kong government officials said they had studied the case of Per-And then in July, the Indonesian government lifted the trading ban on the there was no malfeasance or illegality— lyst questioned whether the managers of rupiah - in effect a devaluation fol- simply a case of a firm going bankrupt

tom immediately fell out of the currency.

"There's no rogue trader,' said the From 2,400 to the dollar last summer, the territory's financial secretary. Sir Donsaid the

**British Doctors Say Raw Meat Is Dangerous** 

Agence France-Presse

"The only safe approach for the LONDON — The British Medical food industry and general public is to should be given more information on treat all raw meat as infected and adopt cooking meat especially when using

The warning comes just days before

release of a government study on a

proposed new food-control agency in

light of fears of "mad cow" disease spreading to humans and epidemics of

It also follows a government ban on

salmonella and E. Coli poisoning.

universal precautions in handling and

Others are not so sure, and questions are likely to persist. Among them are used the shareholders funds in such a what did Peregrine's managers know staggering way." an analyst said. "It's what did Peregrine's managers know staggering way," an analyst said. "It's and when did they know it? Exactly what not just a financial tragedy, but a legal did the \$260 million go for? And was it legal for Peregrine — which is not a bank, but a brokerage and an investment house - to make the loan to Steady Safe \$260 million to Steady Safe actually in the first place, since under Hong Kong

law, only banks can make loans? Under U.S. law, it is also a crime to lyst questioned whether the managers of Asia.

Asia

"It's not a bank, per se," Mr. Tung Peregrine's biggest creditors is First Na-tional Bank of Chicago.

were insisting that Peregrine was solvent.

microwave ovens.

■ Herd Slaughtered in France

A herd of 135 cows in northwestern

Normandy was slaughtered over the

weekend after one of the animals was

discovered to have mad cow disease.

Reuters reported Monday from

Rennes, France, quoting the Agricul-

On Monday, Hong Kong's chief executive, Tung Chee-bwa, tried to calm

local fears that Peregrine's collapse could signal a meltdown of Hong cal finance houses similarly facing

# MARKETS: Asia Stocks Take Pounding

Continued from Page 1

Dow to its lowest level in two months, Across Europe, most major stock inbeing pulled back from their worst losses, Reuters reported. (Page 13)

Global bonds gained as investors switched into fixed-income securities from stocks, with benchmark yields across Europe setting new lows and the 30-year U.S. Treasury yield touching its record, Bloomberg News reported.

In Asia, the Indonesian rupiah led a fall of regional currencies by dropping as much as 12 percent and dragging the That currency to a new low against the dollar. The Malaysian ringgit and Singapore dollar also fell.

Fear of speculative attacks on the Hong Kong dollar and a sharp rise in prime leading rates in Hong Kong also undercut the stock market there.

The higher rates will hurt companies with loans outstanding. They were raised to 10.25 percent Friday, but they could be lifted even further if the Hong Kong dollar, Asia's last dollar-pegged currency, comes under speculative attack.

The foundaring of Peregrine, along with the decline Friday in U.S. markets, combined to bring down the Singapore stock index by 8 percent, the Taipei index by nearly 5 percent and the Tokyo index by 2 percent, traders said.

Singapore stocks were also pulled down by worries about further economic and political turmoil in nearby Indonesia, the traders said. While sentiment swayed Taiwan stock players on Monday, analysts in Taipei said the island's economy was dynamic enough to withstand the changed circumstances.

Taiwan's economic growth relative to the region will be good," said Liu Chitung, head of research at SBC War-burg Dillon Read in Taipei. "But in absolute terms, not even the United States will escape at this point."

He added that the Taiwan dollar was not likely to depreciate against the U.S. currency and that the 10-day Chinese New Year holiday, starting Jan. 23 would help restore calm to Taiwan's markets.

But some warned that with a sharp Asian economic slowdown under way, fall. "Hong Kong and Taiwan both went down today for all the right reasons, and those reasons will persist long after Per-egrine drops out of the headlines," said uted to this report

Bill Kaye, managing partner of the Pa-cific Group's Asian Hedge Fund. Mr. Kaye said both Taiwan and Hong Kong quickly drew bargain-hunters into the market. By the end of trading, the Dow was 66.76 points higher at 7,647.18.

faced an erosion of competitiveness in export markets because their currencies had remained strong relative to those in export markets because their currencies had remained strong relative to those in the rest of the region. They will both also dexes fell 2 percent to 3 percent before suffer from a slowdown of the Chinese economy, he added.

The two bright spots among the region's equity markets came in the countries that have faced the most precipitous decline in currency values: South Korea and Indonesia

Seoul stocks rose for the ninth time in 10 days on hope that the country is emerging from its financial crisis as the government and international creditor banks hammer out a debt refinancing agreement. The Jakarta Stock Exchange was lifted 2.1 percent as President Suharto met with Stanley Fischer, deputy managing director of the Inter-national Monetary Fund.

■ Firm Sees Market Bottoms

Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co.'s top strategists said world markets might be close to bottom, even as economic turmoil in Asia continues,

Bloomberg News reported. "Many markets are down 90 percent or more since the crisis began," said Barton Biggs, the firm's chief global strategist, during the firm's Monday strategy session in New York. "This financial panic indicates to me that the bear market is in its final stages - since historically, market breaks usually don't run more than 90 percent, even in the

biggest bubble markets."
Mr. Biggs said he would not recommend buying Asian stocks yet. "Some time this week or next, I think some great buys will surface in Asia," he said, 'although we are probably still in the eye of the storm at this point, and it is too early to buy aggressively.

It is not too early to buy U.S. stocks. said Byron Wien, Morgan's director of U.S. investment strategy. In the same meeting, he recommended energy, financial and technology stocks.

"The U.S. market is getting to look cheap on valuation measures," he said. Mr. Biggs does not share Mr. Wien's optimism about the U.S. market. He said markets in the U.S. and Europe could decline 20 to 30 percent from their highs there was plenty of room for stocks to as corporate failures in Asia slowed worldwide economic growth.

Philip Segal in Hong Kong contrib-

#### food poisoning was at its highest ever in 1997, with 1 million people infected beef on the bone because of new fears ture Ministry. It was the 32d case of mad cow that mad cow disease, or bovine sponby salmonella or E. Coli bacteria and disease recorded in France since 1990 giform encephalopathy, can be trans-200 people dying as a result. mitted through bone and marrow. and the first this year.

SUHARTO: He Assures IMF That Reforms Will Be Accelerated Continued from Page 1

Jakarta on Tuesday for talks with Mr. Subarto.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of sian leader on Monday to urge him not to renege on the undertaking.

Diplomats said the message from Mr. Hashimoto carried special weight because Japan is Indonesia's largest source of aid, trade, investment and loans. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain also said in Tokyo that Indonesia should

Before Monday, Mr. Suharto appeared to be resisting some of the reforms. Critics said he was doing so because the reforms involved austerity measures that could cause popular anger ahead of presidential elections in March - in which Mr. Suharto is expected to seek a seventh five-year term — or because they would hurt the extensive business interests of

the president's family and friends. The reforms include deep cuts in government spending, tight monetary policy, a systematic cleanup of the Indonesian banking sector and tighter

curbs on corruption and nepotism. Abdurrahman Wahid, a critic of the government who is head of the 34-milion-member Nahadlatul Ulama, the nation's largest Muslim organization, said in an interview with Reuters on Monday that Mr. Suharto, 76, should resign and let someone else take over. Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population, although it is a secular state.

Mr. Wahid said that the president had tried to renege on reforms agreed with the IMF to save his family's business interests. "The government is ready to heed the requirements but the president, Japan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of no, because for the president the IMF Germany both telephoned the Indone- requirements will mean dismantling his own economic empire," he said.

Sumitro Djojohadikusumo, a leading economist and a long-time advisor to Mr. Suharto, warned in an interview in Monday's Jakarta Post that Indonesia might plunge into a prolonged depression if economic and political reforms were not implemented firmly. He made no reference to the president, but said the country's economic woes were the result of institutional problems — including graft, collusion between officials and businessmen, a weak judicial system, protectionism and monopolies.

"I have repeatedly warned since many years ago that this gap would sooner or later cause a short-circuit between those who govern and the ones being governed," Mr. Sumitro said. \$130 billion. Most are owed by Indone"This is what is happening now."

He said that he expected strong resistance from those with vested interests "But we don't have another choice," Mr. Sumitro added. "If we want to get out of this crisis, we must act immediately and firmly to attack these institutional diseases in a more focused manner.' As a result of Mr. Suharto's assurance

agreement by Thursday in negotiations

with a panel of key government min-

commitment to change,

Mr. Fischer, the IMF official, said, "I expect that in a few days the government of Indonesia will show in a very strong way its commitment to carrying out the program and to undertake a variety of measures that should restore confidence in the economy." Mr. Mar'ie, the finance minister, said the outcome of the talks would be an-

nonnced on Thursday, the day after Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, is to arrive in Jakarta. Mr. Fischer said the government could make some amendments in the its next budget. When Mr. Suharto announced

the budget last Tuesday, it was sharply criticized for its lack of commitment to reforms. That criticism led to precipitous falls in value of Indonesia's currency and stocks, as well as panic buying of food for fear of shortages and hyperinflation. Most alarming for international markets was the fear that Indonesia would declare a moratorium on repayment of

Japanese and Asian banks. Much of the private-sector debt is supposed to be repaid within the next 12 months, but analysts said that many In-

donesian firms could not do so because of the sharp drop in the rupiah's value.
"Early indications are that the talks in Jakarta are progressing well," said Thio Monday, the IMF expects to reach an Chin Loo, regional strategist in the Singapore office of Banque Paribas. "A debt moratorium in Indonesia has been isters that will demonstrate Indonesia's averted for now as well as capital controls and a fixed exchange rate regime."

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Section Section 1

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. Siens Page I

المراز والمحمول بالمحاول المعاودة







From left: Iil Sander's short felted coat and canvas pants; Gianfranco Ferre Studio's soft tailored jacket (top). Cerruti's industrial nylon and flannel parka (middle), and Emporio Armani's silver-flashed raincoat and soft pants (bottom); Dolce & Gabbana's thick, light coat and low-slung pants; and Valentino's velvet suit.

By Suzy Menkes Invernational Herald Tribune

#### "ILAN - The thick, felted, out featherlight fabrics that are dominating the new menswear season are a metaphor for what is going on in fashion.

Although Italy carries its clout lightly, it is now indisputably fashion's inter-national heavyweight. When Calvin Klein of New York puts his fall men's collection on the Milan runway on Wednesday, it will be proof that a designer who wants the global consecration of might be weird turns elegant.

Sander proved that with the sophis-Italian season.

The might of the country's fashion was shown over the weekend, when an emotional Valentino announced his \$300 million deal with the Italian holding company HDP, whose GFT division produces his line. The marriage is intended to create a global fashion business to rival French luxury companies.

Another significant event has been the defection of Jean Paul Gaultier and the of stiff sculptures: pieces that moved Belgian designer Dirk Bikkembergs with the body when a jacket was shirtfrom Paris. The increasing internationalization of the Italian shows means that Donna Karan is in town with her menswear collection, and the Germanbased Jil Sander had the opening slot in

# Light and Heavy in Milan Menswear

# Heavyweight Designers Turn to Featherlight Fabrics

bland, paradoxically it has a beneficial

ticated simplicity of her collection. Working in felted fabrics as thick and misty as a cumulus, and in shades of cloud gray, she streamlined the short lumpy tweeds into linear shapes and subtle mixes of color and texture.

Sander referred to inspiration from the experiments in felt by artist Joseph Benys. But her clothes were the opposite light or fastened high at the breastbone, or when coats were sliced at mid thigh. Bucking a Milan trend, she showed narrow pants which gave the khaki pieces an uncomfortably military air; but cream the Monday showings.

What is the secret of Italy's success?

Whereas the manufacturing machine chrome palette, in subtly changing tones

take on fabrics as thick as felt but as light as thistledown. Playing with proportions, they created a close-to-the torso top half above pants that circled the hips in a tight embrace, before loosening up below. The result was cheeky and sleek, even when different tweeds made a stout patchwork of pants. That fabric mix was part of an coat, the round-collared jacket and once homage to traditional menswear. It could mean anything from classic pinstriped suiting to a sweater traced with em-broidered flowers.

"We wanted to make clothes to our personal tastes — what we want in our own wardrobes," said Stefano Gabbana backstage. Among the covetable looks were thick, light alpaca sweaters in dominating gray shades; jackets molded to the torso with two high buttons; short fitted coats in tweed or shiny leather. All were shown with velvet, or even pin-striped,

flat mules that gave a funky touch. Valentino's story was seduction and his prose was purple. Out of shadow pools

that rolls out high-quality clothes for international designers tends to make the Milan women's collections beautiful but

of blue and gray, gave depth to the into the spotlight stepped sultry figures in the most creative part of the collection ink blues and violets: deep-pile velvet with sweaters given textured effects or suits; swaggering tailcoats flashing purple boldly outlined camouflage markings. linings; necks nestling in funnel collars. "Individuality is uniformity" was the obscure message projected across the ever-changing images on the backdrop.

> F the urban sexiness and the style of presentation gave a nod to Gucci, Valentino made the look his own by cutting the silhouette, and especially the pants, close to the body and making all the decoration linear, from the stripes furrowing knits, through the herringbone tweed coats and classic pin-

'Skinny but elegant,'' said Valentino, as he and his partner, Giancarlo Giammetti, received congratulations back-stage for the financial deal that the de-signer said made him "feel great." Krizia's Aldo Pinto voiced the anxi-

eties of managers in the luxury fashion business about what will happen to the lucrative Asian market. Krizia made its name with knitwear, and that remains

They were inspired by a down-in-theforest theme that also brought mossgreen velvets and mohairs. The unifying story of disparate menswear elements

was comfort. Cerruti's mix of the industrial and the luxurious didn't quite come off, al-though soft flannels lining laminated parkas literally gave the clothes an edge. Other contrasts included soft sweaters with tough cargo pants, a luxurious camel coat with a hairy brushed surface and Velcro fastenings on tailoring. Shades of (you guessed it!) gray pulled

Giorgio Armani put his Emporio Armani and jeans line on the runway Monday, in order to emphasize the whimsical, sporty style that distinguishes it from his main collection. Slouchy pants, dark-bued velvets and wrapped knits, and shirts cut asymmetrically with a slit neck gave a taste of the vast collection that will madcap British design is tranquilized by be showcased when Armani opens his a shot of Italian fashion sanity.

new store in Paris on the Drugstore site on Bouelvard Saint Germain next week. Gianfranco Ferre, who is celebrating 20 years of his label in 1998, showed on Sunday the Studio line he creates for textile giant Marzotto. A symphony of touchy-feely gray tailoring, rustic country browns and short sporty coats showed Ferre at his best: creating sportswear without fussy details.

Since Ferre gave up his role at Dior in Paris, he has concentrated on expanding his Milan business, according to Silvano Storer, the chief executive of Marzotto, who said that the company was taking 'the consumer as the reference point.'

There is sober, business-conscious Italian fashion. And then there is Vivienne Westwood, going her own sweet way as a perennial fashion subversive who sees men entirely as sex objects.

Well, why not? Maybe it is time that men had the tables turned on them by being forced to show a leg in pants curved to the thigh or the ankle. ("Cornedy" or "tragedy" trousers, Westwood called them, with English irony.) Much of what she shows is too much: the plumed headgear, the Venetian mask makeup, the snuff-snorting models and the spangled shirts and underpants. Yet there is a

# Raf Simons: A Versace Possible?

International Herald Tribune

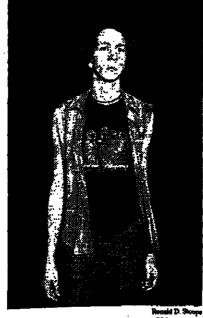
ILAN — Six months after the killing of Gianni Ver-sace, his sister Donatella has approached Raf Simons, 29, a hip Belgian menswear designer who is one of fashion's rising stars. According to sources in Belgium, a

deal for Simons to contribute his edgy tailoring to the Versace design studio could be struck by the end of the month, after the designer presents his menswear show in Paris on Jan. 23. But a spokesman for Versace said that such speculation was unfounded.

Contacted at his Antwerp studio on Monday, Simons said that discussing an appointment was premature, that the idea of working with Versace "interested him a lot," but that it was too early to say when and if plans would be concretized or even which of the several Versace menswear lines was under discussion. Although Simons's provocative look,

with sly references to punk and to classic English schoolboy aniforms, might seem too downtown for the glam-rock Versace label, it could be a smart move to tap a designer who would reflect the style of a coming generation.

Simons is also a sensitive and sophisticated tailor who cuts "the perfect modern pants," according to the designer boutique-owner Maria Luisa



From Simons's summer collection. Poumaillou, whose new Paris men's

store will focus on his line. The Belgian designer is not one of Antwerp's fashion college graduates who have become a design force in the

1990s. He studied industrial design and graduated in furniture, which brought him into contact with Belgian fashion's Walter Van Bierendonck.

Simons, who says he has "a lot of respect for traditional clothing," approached a revered Antwerp tailor and learned from him how to cut a silhouette close to a slight boyish frame, rather than to the bold, muscly body shape more 17 NASA satellite typical of 1980s menswear, when Versace made a broad-shouldered impact.

Starting in a small way three years ago, Simons set up and financed his own company, which he says he wants to keep whatever the outcome of nego-

tiations in Italy. "The most important thing for me is that I keep the possibility to do my own thing as it is at the moment," Simons said. "It is also important for me that there is a certain kind of luxury in the

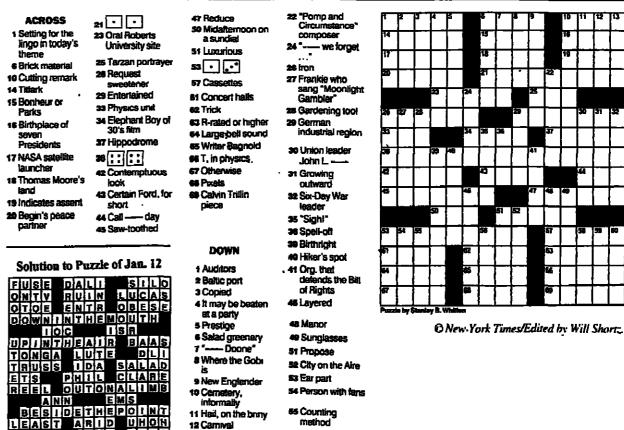
technical things." Versace's ourrent menswear is produced by Donatella Versace and her husband. Paul Beck, working with a

team of designers.

A source in Antwerp suggests that Simons and fellow Belgian women's wear designer Veronique Branquinho could have been approached jointly, but there seems no evidence for this.

Suzy Menkes

## **CROSSWORD**



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Section 1

# 🖟 In Germany, Voicing Fear Over Euro

**Petition Urges Court** To Halt Participation

By Alan Cowell

BONN — In a quixotic tilting at the great windmill of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's most cherished vision, a prom-inent group of lawyers and former bankers petitioned the country's highest court Monday to prevent Germany from in joining Europe's proposed single currency, the euro.

Legal experts gave the 300-page pe-tition — handed to the doorman at the Constitutional little chance of success. But its arguments nonetheless crystallized the peculiar ambivalence in German attitudes could a manage of abandoning the German articles and the mark — 50 years old this year and the imblem of postwar prosperity and se-

curity.

Mr. Kohl has steamrollered the idea of European monetary union as the centerpiece of his diplomacy, insisting that the creation of a euro transcending national frontiers will guarantee the continent the peace in the 21st century that eluded it so conspicuously in the

> But many Germans have much less faith, opinion polls show, fearing that, with the euro, they will trade a currency based on Europe's traditional powerhouse for one that is prey to the vagaries of other participant economies perceived as less robust — notably that of Italy, where Germans would rather spend their vacations than their sav-

> Monday's court petition was a particularly timely reminder of those concerns before European Union leaders meet in May to finalize the list of par-

Before then, European officials in Brussels are to report in March on which would-be participants have met the union's economic criteria for membership. The linkage of European currencies in a euro zone is to begin in a year, although the mandatory use of euro notes and coins is not scheduled to start until

The petition, drawn up by four plaintiffs, argued that the economic criteria had not been met in Germany and that the introduction of the euro would rights to economic stability.

Additionally, it said, by ceding chunks of national economic sovereignty to a proposed European central bank, the introduction of the euro would counter the constitutional right of Germans to "substantial representation" of their interests by Parliament.

The Constitutional Court is the final arbiter of issues relating to Germany's Basic Law --- the postwar constitution - and has endorsed such major issues as the deployment of German troops outside the NATO area, and, in 1993, the legality of the European Union's Maastricht Treaty, which enshrined the proposal for the euro and the economic criteria for participation.

The petition was the fourth of its kind to be lodged with the Constitutional Court but is by far the most publicized. The plaintiffs include Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, a law professor from Nuremberg, and Wilhelm Nolling, a ) former council member of the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank.

In the petition, they argue that the euro will mean an effective devaluation of Germans' money, even greater unemployment than the record 4.5 million recorded last week and immense cash transfers to poorer euro countries to

sustain their economic viability.

The petition seeks a temporary injunction to block Germany's participation - crucial to the entire venture. "We are seeking this ruling to prevent the government from deciding to join the European monetary union in May." Mr. Schachtschneider told reporters. It was not clear when the court would

> According to a newspaper report, the text of petition is soon to appear in less legalistic form — as a paperback book.





The plunge in Hong Kong stocks rattled nerves Monday from Asia to Europe. The key indexes in London, Frankfurt and Paris all ended lower.

# Where's the Asian Action Happening? New York

Economic Crisis Is Reversing Perceived Decline of the City as a Global Financial Center

By Kirk Johnson New York Times Service

NEW YORK - The Italian, British, Japanese and American investment bankers who met last week around a conference table at Citicorp headquarters in Manhattan had at least two things in common: an abiding interest in the economic crisis in Asia, and the belief that the most logical place to talk about it was New York.

That New York would become central to the Asian story, economists and international trade experts say, was neither obvious nor predictable. Banks in Japan and in Europe have more exosure to debt from troubled countries like South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia — and thus more at stake — than banks in the United States. The In-ternational Monetary Fund, which is supervising the bailouts in those countries, is based in Washington.

And yet the Asian crisis, at least for tions, the staggering profitability of Smith Barney as their official advisers.

America's biggest investment houses
— almost all based in New York have all contributed to a single, shared global insight: New York is where the

The decline of world political tensions since the end of the Cold War has been a factor as well, experts say. A crisis that would once have raised the highest levels of alert within the State Department has been seen, in the 1990s, as simply an economic crisis and therefore more the concern of the capitalists in New York than the diplomats in

"The money is being more controlled now, and it's being controlled by New York," said Anthony DeCaro, an independent international trade consultant who has worked with many Asian governments.

There is a certain sweet irony for the city in all this. For many years, New York has supposedly been doomed to a future as one among many financial Korean producers are more anxious for in Tokyo or London or Hong Kong, but in the corporate canyons of Manhattan. The strength of the dollar and the stability of the U.S. economy, the long- anywhere for their economic hired standing political relationships between the United States and Far Eastern na-Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Salomon

'We're in a very unusual position." said Jeff Bahrenburg, a global strategist and first vice president at Merrill Lynch. Eventually, he said, other financial centers and nations, especially Japan, will return to greater influence. "But in the interim it's going to force companies to come here to get financing," he said. "New York will be the main center."

Economists and financial experts are divided about what this might mean for the city, mainly because Asia's turmoil is so volatile and its implications so

Some New York-based banks, for example, have already been hurt by bad Asian loans. Sales to investors of international stocks and mutual funds are expected to decline, and tourism from Asia to New York has slowed to a trickle. Companies that import goods from South Korea have been hit by crosscurrents: Imports are cheaper because of the currency changes, but here have shrunk because their customers, Korean immigrants, have been sending millions of dollars to relatives

But the major potential effects on the city, the experts say, are all yet to come it is simply too early in a rapidly

evolving story to detect them. The important thing, they say, is that New York is in the game and calling the plays. Some firms may get a windfall from the billions of dollars in fees that are

expected from bond sales, restructured

debts and rewritten legal trade agree-For example, Coudert Brothers, a law firm based in New York and specializing in international trade, has already seen an increase in business, mainly

from export and import contracts that have suddenly had to be amended. The volatility of the world's money has also boosted activity at currency trading desks, where billions of dollars change hands on fractional changes in values. Opportunities have also emerged for companies with profits to invest. Merrill Lynch recently expanded its presence in Asia by buying some assets of a big Japanese investment

There is potential for a lot of posservices analyst at Goldman, Sachs who follows the securities industry. He said one of the main effects of the Asian crisis in the United States, falling interest rates, might cause a boom in re-

See NEW YORK, Page 15

# In Europe, **Stocks Trim** Their Losses

Wall Street Rally Eases Market Jitters Over Asia

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LONDON - European financial markets breathed a sigh of relief Monday as U.S. investors took only passing notice of an overnight rout in Asian stock markets.

The Dow Jones industrial average opened with losses of more than 100 oints but soon pulled back and dragged European exchanges up from their worst losses. By the time European trading closed, New York was down just 33 points, or 0.44 percent. At the close, the Dow had rebounded to show a gain of 66.76 points at 7,647.18.

"The market is groping for direction here," said Chris Dickerson, market analyst at Global Market Strategists in New York.

He called the market oversold and said that, barring any major bad news relief rally during the kick-off this week to the earnings season.
Analysts believed Wall Street's san-

guine reaction to overnight bloodletting in Asia was crucial and helped calm

jangled European nerves.

London, Europe's biggest bourse, reacted by pulling back from fails of almost 3 percent to close 1.33 percent In Germany, shares went into free fall

at the start of trade and fell over 4

percent at one point before Wall Street gave Frankfurt some backbone and the main DAX index recovered slightly to close 3.53 percent lower for the day. In Paris, the main CAC 40 index.

which was down around 3.5 percent earlier, managed to claw its way back to end with a loss of 1.96 percent. Europe's share sell-off was sparked

by torrid trading in Asia's aiready battered markets, some of which shed more than 10 percent of their value at their lowest point, after Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong said it was filing for liquidation.

Bonds were the main beneficiaries of the Asian rout as investors fled to safety. British gilts set a fresh high of 124, up 23/32, helped by relatively benign British economic data.

Russian stocks fell 14 percent Monday to hit their lowest level in 10 months as foreign investors, shaken by a new States, pulled out of the Russian mar-

The sharp drop caused regulators to suspend trading an hour before Monday's close. The session resumed a half hour later for the final 30 minutes of (Reuters, AP)

#### **Thinking Ahead** /Commentary

# The Euro Will Wonderfully Focus Americans' Minds

back home.

By Reginald Dale International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON - Anyone who has tried to explain the rules of cricket to an American will know the glazed look of incomprehension that usually settles over the listener's features about 20 seconds into the exercise.

To people raised on baseball, the revelation that cricket requires two batters to be on the field at the same time seems not only bewildering but somehow anti-American. The same kind of mental blockage

tends to afflict Americans confronted with the procedures and institutions of the European Union, which may echo but are in fact quite different from methods of governance known in the United States. And it happens in the best of circles. It is said that if White House sched-

ulers had had their way, the most recent six-monthly EU-U.S. summit meeting
— which took place unobtrusively in Washington in December — might never have happened at all.

The keepers of the Oval office agenda could not see why President Bill Clinton should spare any time for the two EU leaders - Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Council - who

both happen to be from Luxembourg. The story may be apocryphal. But the point is that it is completely believable - and not just because of what it says about Washington. Other than in trade, in which it is already a superpower, the EU has largely failed to demonstrate to most Americans why

they should take it seriously.

That is a failing that Tony Blair, the British prime minister, is promising to start to rectify in the coming six months, during which his country will hold the rotating EU presidency. It will

be an uphill battle.

It is astonishing that many Americans are only now beginning to un-derstand that the EU is actually about to introduce a single currency in less than a year's time, although the plan was formally agreed over six years ago.

Similar American skepticism has dogged the EU's determination to ex-pand into Central and Eastern Europe, for which negotiations are to begin this spring, following a commitment to EU

enlargement announced in 1993. Both these developments are of colossal historic significance and vitally

With the single currency, Europe will have a counterweight to the dollar.

important to American economic and security interests. Yet many Americans have stubbornly refused to believe the EU's repeated statements that

they are going to happen.
Part of the American blind spot reflects the Washington policy establishment's continued attachment to a politico-military world view that haughtily but wrongly dismisses the EU's activities as purely economic — and thus less worthy of interest.

It is true that if one judges the EU only by its politico-military achievements, in Bosnia, for example, or in its efforts to forge a common foreign and security policy, one might find it hard to believe that it could organize itself efficiently for any task.

The EU has also fostered an image of squabbling and indecision by chronic procrastination on such important issues as how to prepare itself for the arrival of the new Central European members.

The main point, though, is that Americans are quite rightly interested in power, and they are aware that, outside the trade field, power still largely rests with the member gov-

emments, not the EU institutions. That, however, is about to change.
With the single currency, Europe will for the first time since World War II have a high-stakes chip it can place on the international poker table as a counterweight to the dollar. That is

something Americans should find easier to understand than a game of

# Japan Revises **Debt Figures**

New York Times Service

TOKYO - Japan disclosed Monday that its banks are saddled with \$580 billion in bad or tarnished debt, perhaps more than double the sum previously disclosed, underscoring the fragility of the world's second-largest economy.

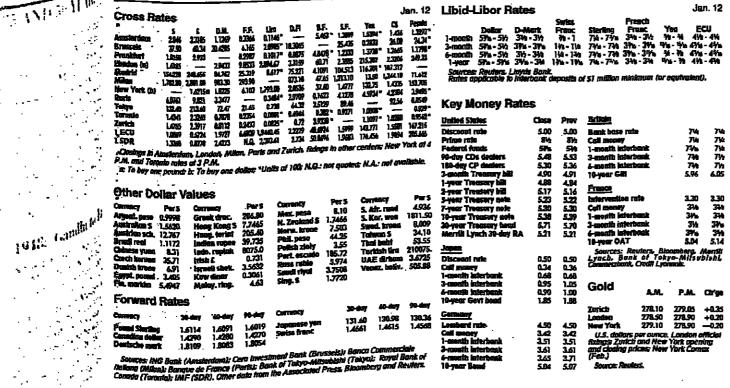
In addition, the government nearly tripled its estimate of absolutely unrecoverable debts held by banks, the worst category, to \$87 billion, from a figure that it had disclosed just three weeks ago.

But the government contended that

most of the tarnished loans were "safe" and would probably end up being repaid, and it asserted that outside analysts and the markets have greatly exaggerated the scale of the problem.

While the estimate of unrecoverable loans raised questions about the govemment's math, even the latest figure was meant to be reassuring because the \$87 billion estimate would be tolerable for a banking system as vast as Japan's. Indeed, that amount represents only 1.8 percent of the nation's 625 trillion yen (\$4.7 trillion) in outstanding loans.

## **CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES**



# Microsoft Lawsuit: What's at Stake?

By Steve Lohr and John Markoff New York Times Service

NEW YORK -- Microsoft Corp.'s

final chance to avoid being dragged into court by the U.S. government came Oct. 16, when the Justice Department summoned the company's legal team to Washington. For 90 minutes the lawyers were interrogated by Joel Klein, the assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division, and his staff.

The Microsoft team, led by William Neukom, senior vice president for law and corporate affairs, detailed the business and legal reasons for the company's requiring personal-computer makers to ship its Internet browsing program, Ex-plorer, as a condition of licensing its industry-standard Windows 95 operating system - and why Microsoft was intent on continuing that practice.

But to the Justice Department, the product bundling seemed a clear violation of Microsoft's 1995 consent decree with the government, which prohibited tying the sale of one product to another.

Mr. Klein said he left the Oct. 16 partment and Europe's antitrust authormeeting convinced that Microsoft would not budge and would not address the government's concerns. Four days later, Attorney General Janet Reno, with Mr. Klein at her side, announced that the government was suing Microsoft.

The government's suit has escalated into a bitter battle — and a bruising experience for the company. In recent weeks, Microsoft, usually so surefooted, has appeared at times to be throwing a temper tantrum, picking fights with a federal judge and the Justice Department,

Microsoft's combative stance has prompted such a backlash in the industry, the press and among computer users that even its own executives acknowledge has blemished the company's good name. As the courtroom confrontation re-

sumes Tuesday, the question remains: Why is Microsoft taking such a hard line? To find the answer, go back to the summer of 1994, before the Internet was a household word, long before there was a market for browser software.

In 1994, after four years of government scrutiny, Microsoft, the Justice De-

ities were poring over a proposed consent decree that focused mainly on slightly altering Microsoft's licensing practices.
On July 13, 1994, Microsoft's legal team was in Washington going over the

language of the decree. The draft of the settlement terms said that Microsoft would be prohibited from tying the use of one of its products to another. But the provision in the decree included the qualification that "this shall not be construed to prohibit Microsoft from developing integrated products which offer technological advantages."
At 10:30 P.M., Bill Gates called the

company's general counsel, Mr. Neukom, and the head of the company's outside legal team, Richard Urowsky, a partner of the firm Sullivan & Cromwell, at a Washington hotel. Mr. Gates demanded that the last four words -'which offer technological advantages" - be stricken from the decree. Mr. Gates, according to Mr. Urowsky's account in a court depos-

ition, successfully insisted "that Mi-

See MICROSOFT, Page 15

#### **Very briefly:**

• Lindt & Spruengli AG of Switzerland confirmed that it bought the U.S. chocolate maker Ghirardelli Chocolate Co. from Dallas-based Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Inc. It did not disclose the price.

 NationsBank Corp.'s fourth-quarter profit rose 29 percent, to \$818 million, as its acquisitions of Boatmen's Bancshares Inc. and Montgomery Securities Inc. fueled increases in

• Meditrust Cos. will buy Cobblestone Holdings Inc., a golf course company, for \$395 million in stock and assumed debt.

• The Securities and Exchange Commission directed American public companies that have substantial computer expenses linked to the "Year 2000 bug" to disclose this spring their costs and plans for fixing the problem.

• Unisys Corp. must defend itself against a fraud lawsuit filed by Ceska Sporiteina AS, a Czech bank, after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal in the case. The court refused to overturn a lower-court decision forcing Unisys to face charges of failing to deliver on a \$155 million contract to sales. supply a computer system to Ceska.

#### **Weekend Box Office**

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - "Titanic" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of \$29.2 million. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on estimates

for Friday through Sunday. 3. As Good As it Gets
4. Way the Dog
5. Tomorrow News

Computer Stocks Lift Wall Street Out of Asian Turmoil

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks rose Monday for the first time in five days as investors snapped up beaten-down computer shares and influential Wall Street analysts suggested that the impact of Asia's troubles on U.S. corporate troubles would be muted and might offer buying opportunities soon. Intel and Microsoft led the mar-

ket's rebound from losses early on that were fueled by tumbling Asian markets.

Stocks were helped by positive comments from Abby Joseph Cohen, a stock strategist at Goldman, Sachs & Co., who has been correctly bullish through the past three years' rally in stocks. Barton Biggs, chief global strategist at Morgan Stanley, said the bear market in Asia may be in its final stages, and Byron Wien, Morgan's U.S.

age rose 66.76 points to 7,647.18, after sliding as much as 137 points early in the session. The New York Stock Exchange imposed its 'downtick'' rule at 1:14 P.M. Eastem time when the Dow rose 50 points. The rule curbs computerguided trading in an attempt to limit volatility.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index was quoted up 4.37 points at 1,507.59.

The benchmark 30-year bond rose 3/8, pushing its yield down 3 basis points to 5.70 percent. Yields earlier fell to 5.66 percent, the lowest since the Treasury began regular 30-year bond sales in 1977. Intel got an additional boost from

expectations that its fourth-quarter profit report, scheduled for release than people expected a few weeks

#### said Ray Hirsch, director of ago,"

ican Express Financial Advisors in Minneapolis.

U.S. STOCKS

Seventeen stocks fell for every 13 that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where about 700 million shares changed hands. Citicorp fell and dealers noted it was a major creditor of Hong Kong-

based Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd., which closed its doors on Monday. First Chicago NBD Corp., another Peregrine creditor, also posted a drop.

These Pirates

May Go Public

Bloomberg News PITTSBURGH - The Pitts-

burgh Pirates are considering a

public stock offering, which

would make them the first Ma-

jor League Baseball team to of-

fer direct voting shares to the

find ways to raise money to meet escalating player salaries

and build a new stadium. Pitts-

burgh-area voters rejected a tax

increase in November 1997 to

pay the estimated \$700 million

for two new stadiums for the

Pirates and Pittsburgh Steelers.

liminary," said Pirates Chief

Operating Officer Dick Free-man. "It's still in the real re-

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan

Federal-Mogul Corp. said Monday

stock as it strengthens its presence in

Federal-Mogul said it would pay

\$495 million in cash and \$225 mil-

lion in stock for the closely held

maker of automobile gaskets. In ad-

dition, the company said it would

that it had agreed to acquire Fel-Pro Inc. for \$720 million in cash and

search stage."

"The stock issue is still pre-

The Pirates are struggling to

public.

"Right now, there's just a lot of uncertainty as to how long, how

strategist, urged investors to buy
U.S. stocks "selectively."

on Thesday, will exceed forecasts.

"People expect them to make the quarter, which is a better outlook our economy," said Bill Meehan, chief market analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald & Co., a brokerage in Darien, Connecticut.

Stratasys fell after the company said fourth-quarter profit would be technology stock research at Amer-substantially below estimates. partly because of weak sales in Southeast Asia and Europe.

"I think it's going to take a while to work through," said Andrew Brooks, vice president in charge of equity trading at T. Rowe Price Associates in Baltimore, noting the effect of the Asia crisis on world

Banks with exposure to overseas economies slipped. J.P. Morgan, Chase Manhattan and BankBoston posted drops.

The head of the German central bank, Hans Tietmeyer, warned that competition from Asian companies benefiting from a devaluation of their currencies. "We have to be aware that there might be a potential impact from the Asian countries development, he said in Basel "There will be stronger competition

for the European countries. What happens this month is often taken as a signal for what will hap. pen for the year. Since 1950, Jann. ary's performance — up or down has accurately predicted the marker's course for an entire year 9 out of 10 times.

The bias is usually up, thanks to a torrent of demand from holiday bo. nuses and annual contributions to retirement plans. But The latest data on mutual funds suggest that many investors are directing capital toward more defensive investments.

(Bloomberg, AP)

full lourists

# **U.S. Court's Tax Decision** A Blow to Multinationals

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Monday to

for multinational companies, leavng intact a lower court ruling that could cost dozens of companies hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in additional U.S. taxes. The court turned aside arguments

by Bowater Inc. that it should decide dispute over how international companies account for interest exincome is subject to U.S. taxes and grams. how much is assigned to foreign operations.

Bowater had challenged a federal that effectively raised a company's U.S. taxes by cutting the amount of lations that more clearly require the income that is credited to overseas kind of accounting methods im-

In Bowater's case, the dispute liability after the Internal Revenue Service challenged the way the South Carolina paper manufacturer calculated interest expenses that were allocated to two subsidiaries.

The IRS said Bowater's method wrongly provided extra tax breaks under a program designed to encourage export sales. The National Association of

Manufacturers and the National Foreign Trade Council, trade groups representing hundreds of major companies that sell goods abroad, based instead on net interest exsupported Bowater's unsuccessful penses.

petition. They said that the issue had broader significance since the same interest-expense controversy plays wade into a dispute involving taxes a role in a number of other common tax calculations.

Under the accounting methods demanded by the IRS, and backed by the appeals court's ruling in Bowater's case, the groups said companies with foreign sales would generally pay higher taxes and would get smaller foreign tax credits or reduced benefits under some penses when they figure how much other federal tax-incentive pro-

The IRS defended its interpretation of the tax law and urged the Supreme Court to turn down the appeals court's ruling in New York appeal because the Treasury Department has imposed new regulations that more clearly require the posed on Bowater.

The disjunctive disjunctive the proper Federal-Mogul Agrees to Acquire Fel-Pro involved \$390,000 in contested tax way to calculate the size of a company's deductions for the amount it spends for interest on borrowed money in cases where a U.S. business must divide its income and business expenses among domestic and foreign sales operations.

The IRS says companies must the auto parts industry. take their total, or gross, interest Federal-Mogul said payments and then allocate those expenses among domestic and foreign revenues. Bowater and the trade groups said the calculations should instead be

take a pretax restructuring charge of \$15 million to \$20 million. The transaction, expected to be farm and construction vehicles.

Jan. 12, 1998

# Dollar Rises Against Yen As Asian Woes Hurt Japan 132.75 yen, after 132.15 yen on Friday, but slipped to 1.8225 Deutsche marks from 1.8229 DM.

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Monday as plunging Asian stocks and currencies and a report that loan defaults are on the rise in Japan fueled concern the nation would not emerge soon from a

six-year economic slump.

The dollar rebounded after falling against the Deutsche mark after the Dow Jones industrial average changed little despite routs in Asian

and European stocks. "Everyone expected the Dow to crash off and it didn't happen," said John Parry, a currency trader at

Creditanstalt Bankverein, who expects the dollar to rise to 135 yen in the weeks ahead. At 4 P.M., the dollar stood at

completed in the first quarter, con-

\$3 billion in cash and debt.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE with investments there. Internation-

The dollar fell earlier against the

mark on concern investors would

sell U.S. stocks as diving currencies

and stock markets in parts of Asia

would trim demand in the region for

U.S. exports and hurt companies

al investors selling U.S. stocks often convert their dollar proceeds into other currencies. Still, the yen has been underpinned by recent speculation that the United States and Japan would join forces and sell dollars to boost

lapan's sagging currency. The speculation began last week, when Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, met with U.S. finance officials. Yet no statements or tinues Federal-Mogul's focus on its action on exchange rates came after

engine and sealing systems busi-ness, along with the planned ac-quisition of Britain's T&N PLC for the meetings.

Traders were also soured on the ven after the Ministry of Finance said Monday that Japan's banks Fel-Pro, with 1997 sales of \$500 were holding 76.7 trillion yen (\$580 billion) in bad or questionable loans, million, employs more than 2,700 almost three times the figure they workers in 16 locations in four businesses, including gaskets, diesel, reported previously. chemical products and perfor-

Against other currencies, the dollar mance. Federal-Mogul, with annual rose to 6.1030 French francs, from sales of about \$2 billion, makes 6.0990 Friday, and to 1.4777 Swiss francs, from 1.4767 francs. The pound parts for automobiles, trucks, and was at \$1.6215, after \$1.6127.

#### **AMEX**

Monday's 4 P.M. Close The 300 most freded stocks of the day,

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#### U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY **Most Actives**

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Sep 98 344 341 343% +
Est. soles 12,000 Frbs soles 12,020
Frfs open int 97,537, up 578 Q 32 1-22 Q 10 2-27 Q 19 2-5 b 062 1-21 b 067 1-23 M 039 1-23 M 042 1-20 M 062 1-20 M 062 1-20 Q 20 3-13 Q 24 1-26 Q 24 1-26 Q 25 1-26 Q 26 1-26 Q PORK BELLIES (CME R)
40.00 lbs. cents per b.
Feb 90 51.90 30.25 30.45
Mar 98 51.15 49.25 49.25
Mar 98 52.05 50.30 50.48
Est. sales 3.240 Frb sales 2.359
Fifs open int 8.990, off 106

# INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Fris open int 790.584 or 1,402

US TREASURY BONDS (CBO7)

R pci-\$100.000-ps & 23the of 100 pcf)

Mor 98 124-09 122-111 121-22 + 92 712,991

Jun 98 122-28 122-00 122-11 + 91 44,667

Sep 98 123-10 122-01 122-00 + 91 7,030

Est. spice \$45,000 Fris soles \$62,726

Fris open 174-78,900, 00 4,301

LONG GILT (LIFFE)

SSU000 - pis & 32the's of 100 pcf

Mor 98 124-22 124-00 124-04 +0-12 188,345

Jun 98 106-14 108-06 109-07 4,007

Ed. spices \$4138. Prev. spices 7,983

Prev. open int. 190.364 up 972

GERMAN GOV. BUND (LIFFE)

DM250,000 - pis of 106-23 106-24 2,402

Jun 98 106.78 106-33 106-24 -2,424 254,402

Ed. spices 231,172. Prev. spices: 242-618

Prev. open int. 239,354 up 7,831

Prev. open int. 239,354 up 7,831

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Jun 98 110-50 110-40 110-40 -01
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10 YR TREASURY (CBOT)
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EURODOLLARS (CMER)

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SWISS FRANC

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#### ASIA/PACIFIC

# Hot Sellers in China: Papers That Cater to Consumers

By Erik Eckholm New York Times Service

BELIING - In her neat gray tur-Sang Yan, 27, well educated and thoughtful, could easily fit in on

Manhattan's Upper West Side.

She is stylish and aware, and loves to shop. But her shopping is bittersweet, because she must operate on such a stiff budget. Her job - organizing international exhibitions for a government-owned textile company — gives her take-home pay that is the equivalent of \$182 a month.

While that is double the wage of lege professors, it does not buy many designer shoes.

week, along with 200,000 other orate that small apartment to make it Beijing residents for just 12 cents an

issue, is the glossy, ad-packed news-paper called Fine Goods Shopping bile phone is dropped into water, paper called Fine Goods Shopping what shoes to wear with a white anything," Miss Sang said. "They month. But their deep hope, Miss Guide. In the last couple of years this tabloid and a similar one called tleneck, metal-frame glasses and Shopping Guide have become black-and-white Swatch watch, among the hottest-selling items on Beijing newsstands.

They are the purest evidence that a new generation of Chinese has entered the global consumer culture, whether all can afford it or not.

"It's this way," said Wang Xiaoqian, 35, who makes a modest living as a marketer of Chinese liquor and is an avid reader of the shopping papers. "We've been ex-posed to the Western lifestyle now, and we want to enjoy it, too."

These papers avoid the political most workers and even many col- cant so common in publications here. They include some "service" articles for the modern, upward-What Miss Sang does buy twice a climbing urban dweller: how to dec-

wedding gown, how to buy a car with monthly payments instead of cash.

These tabloids carry cover stories on movie, soccer and rock stars and carry reviews of movies and restaurants and books. But most of all they are a platform for advertising; ads for video compact disk players and notebook computers, for clothes and cosmetics, for apartments and cars, for curtains and lamps and furniture, for exercise bikes and package vacations to Thailand or Europe, even for liposuction and breast enlargement.

inspection, turn out to have a commercial sponsor.

A gaping generation gap has opened up. Older Chinese who lived through wars and the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76 try to save every penny and cannot imagine spending, say, \$60 for a shirt.

want me to send most of my salary to them so they can save it for me. They can't understand how I can spend so want to have a baby.

much in a month.' Miss Sang, who has a degree in English from a prestigious foreign language institute in Beijing, is married to a freelance film editor.

run through \$1,200 a month.

had a bit of extra money.

place to learn about all the new goods," said the newspaper's ed-

itor, Zhao Yinong, 37. What more logical place than the Ministry of

ight Industry - itself a chief producer of consumer items - to es-

tablish a new paper devoted to the

week of 200,000, double the impres-

The newer paper is published, im-

probably, by an institute of the

Chinese Academy of Social Sci-

ences, an academic research center.

Its editor said he was too busy for an

Editors of the stodgy political pa-

pers that government offices around

the country are required to buy ex-

press envy at the readership and profitability of the shopping, enter-

tainment and other lively newspa-

pers that sell out at the newsstands.

In an apparent attempt to whip up some enthusiasm for itself, this past

week the Communist Party news-

paper, People's Daily, began a Mon-

day economics section with finan-cial and consumer news, a

Wednesday society section and a

Friday culture section. It does not

appear likely that many Shopping

Wednesday's section carried the

first of two articles on the high price

of electricity in rural areas and a

woman who was crippled while pro-tecting state-owned sheep in a

snowstorm. Friday's culture section

described a new television series tra-

cing the life of Zhou Enlai, the former

prime minister who died in 1976.

Guide readers will be lured.

sive-enough record of the original.

They have what many consider the ideal arrangement, known as "one family, two systems." Through her job in a state enterprise, they get housing and medical benefits and security, if not much income. His Many of the "articles," on close private job offers risk but at least the what he called "market social-

possibility of real money.

They, too, are living with the husband's parents, but they are about to receive, through her government work unit, a two-room apartment with rent that may be less than \$20 a

For now, they are spending most

Investor's Asia Singapore **Hong Kong** Straits Times Hang Seng 2000 v النز 17000 18500 15000 - 7 1750 -Sang said, is to save enough to buy 17000 13000 -1500 that anartment, which may cost sev-15500 eral thousand dollars. Then they 1250 11000 -- --Miss Sang fights off feeling 12500 A S ON D J 1997 1998 guilty about their spending; they are not profligate, she feels sure. She describes a couple she knows who Prev. MOTICALY Close Change The newspapers that cater to 8,121.06 8,894.64 8.70 Hang Seng today's consumers took their cue 1,073.47 1,176.35 -8.75 Straits Times from Deng Xiaoping, the late senior 2,542,40 2,603,10 -2.33 leader, who in 1992 unleashed a All Ordinaries Sydney campaign lending new impetus to 14,664,44 14,995.10 -2.21 Nikkei 225 Tokyo 491.60 Kusia Lumpur Composite Late that year, the first of the 339.17 SET Bangkok papers, Shopping Guide, was start-440.70 456.20 ed. New goods were streaming into Stock Market Index 7,375.14 7,737.20 -4,68 the marketplace, and more people Taipei 1,532,97 1,518,00 +0.99 PSE Producers needed a place to ad-350.24 342.97 +2.12 vertise, and consumers needed a Composite Index

#### **Very briefly:**

NZSE-40

Sensitive Index

art of better consuming.
Shopping Guide was swiftly fol-• BZW Asia Ltd., Barclays PLC's Asian subsidiary, is to shed 75 of its 500 staff in Hong Kong after signing a deal to sell lowed by a competitor, Fine Goods Shopping Guide, which has since ecparts of its Asian investment banking and equity businesses to lipsed it with newsstand sales twice a Credit Suisse First Boston for an undisclosed amount.

2,212.83 2,269.28 -2.49

3,395.04 3,530.20 -3.83

 Keppel Bank Ltd. and Tat Lee Bank Ltd. are to merge, creating a new Singapore bank with assets of more than 33 billion Singapore dollars (\$18 billion). The new bank will be controlled by Keppel and the government of Singapore.

• PT Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara, an airplane maker owned by the Indonesian government, has pledged to proceed with its \$2 billion project to build the 130-seat N-2130 passenger jet, despite the fragile economic climate.

• Japanese household spending fell in November for the first time in three months, falling 2.1 percent from the same month a year earlier to 309,236 yen (\$2,342), the Management and Coordination Agency said. • Four former executives of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd.

pleaded guilty to charges they paid off a racketeer who threatened to disrupt shareholders' meetings unless he was

 Merrill Lynch & Co. of the United States aims to set up a 50-branch retail brokerage unit in Japan that will employ 2,000 people. A spokesman for Merrill Lynch Japan Inc. said it planned to hire employees of Yamaichi Securities Co., the failed Japanese brokerage, and use domestic offices now occupied by Yamaichi.

• WorldCom Inc. is planning a major push into Japan's telecoms market. WorldCom's Japan unit said it is to lay fiber optic cable networks in Tokyo and other big cities. It will launch services after the telecoms sector is deregulated. feature on the troubles of a heroic perhaps around early March.

• Tokyo's average monthly rents for new offices in Tokyo fell 0.8 percent to 15,410 yen (\$117) per tsubo (3.3 square meters) in the October-December quarter, according to Ikoma Data Service System Co., a private research company. Ikoma forecasts Tokyo office rents to rise 2 percent in 1998 from the Reuters, Bloomberg, AP

The IHT Pocket Diary

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Of Your Hand.

# **Hong Kong Fails To Pull Tourists**

By Keith B. Richburg Washington Post Service

HONG KONG - You could call 80-yearold Chan Mok an unfortunate casualty of free market forces.

For 20 years, Mr. Chan has stood outside the Star Ferry terminal with his red rickshaw, an anachronism from Hong Kong's Suzie Wong days that is out of place in a super-modern city with skyscrapers, luxury cars and a sleek sub-

He started at 60, sometimes pulling tourists on a short circular route past the stock-exchange towers, but mostly just posing for the kind of "happy snap" photographs that travelers take home as mementos.

It was a good living, and when tourists were plentiful, he could supplement his meager monthly government pension check with about \$100 each day.

But then the tourism industry went into a tailspin, the victim of the declining regional economy, the Avian flu scare, a wave of currency devaluations across Southeast Asia that have made this the most expensive city in the region, and - perhaps most importantly what some here call a general burnout on Hong Kong after months of hype over its handover last summer to Chinese rule.

Some 792,892 tourists visited in November last year, a drop of 22 percent from November 1996, continuing a downward monthly trend that began after the July I handover. Tourism in 1996 was Hong Kong's largest foreign ex-change earner, bringing in \$13.4 billion. when Mr. Chan started — Willi Tewer tourists, Mr. Chan is thinking victims of sluggish tourism.

Seoul Rally

Is Fueled by

over in the country's debt

Markets were cheered when

the Finance Ministry quoted

Michael Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund, as saying in talks with Finance Minister Lim Chang

Yuel in Seoul that South Korea's financial situation had

been improving since Novem-

ber.
The ministry statement Monday said Mr. Camdessus had

told Mr. Lim that an atmosphere for loan rollovers and

support for South Korea had

been created in the international

financial community.

Mr. Camdessus later told the

president-elect, Kim Dae Jung. that the government needed to take the lead and show that it

was sharing the pain in order to

win the support of labor for the belt-tightening program that ac-companied the \$60 billion IMF-

led rescue for South Korea, a

statement from Mr. Kim's party

The president-elect, who is to take office Feb. 25, had asked Mr. Camdessus to help per-

suade union leaders to accept

One labor organization, the

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, has threatened to or-

ganize a nationwide strike if Mr. Kim's government goes

ahead with revising laws that

make it virtually impossible to lay off workers. Other unions

also are opposed to an easing of

had agreed last week to roll over an estimated \$40 billion in

short-term South Korean debt that is coming due by the end of March also had boosted

Seoul's composite stock in-

dex closed up 15.42 points, or 3.5 percent, at 456.20. Volume

was a record 113.06 million

The won, which has lost about half of its value over the

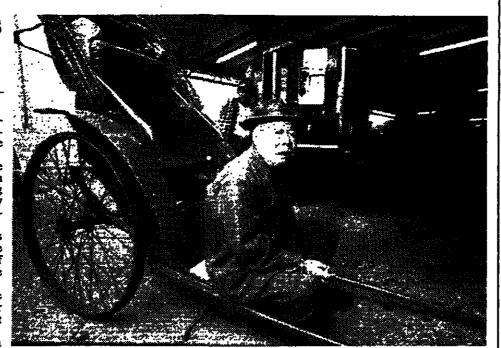
past year, also perked up, as uneasiness over the debt crisis

subsided, although gains were limited by financial turnoil in

Brokers said reports that overseas financial institutions

layoffs.

IMF Chief



Chan Mok, 80, a rickshaw driver for 20 years, is thinking of giving up and retiring to because of the big downturn in tourism. Only eight rickshaw drivers still operate.

what was once for him the unthinkable: giving up his rickshaw and retiring to his native Guangdong Province in southern China.

"I will leave Hong Kong next year because it's very difficult to make a living," Mr. Chan said. "I think maybe in the next one or two years, there will be no rickshaws in Hong Kong. Life is very difficult." The rickshaw drivers now numbering about eight, down from 40

On tiny Li Yuen Street East, tucked behind the banks and department stores of Queen's Road, the vendors selling Chinese silk and leather handbags also are feeling the pinch. Tourists used to be their best customers, they said.

'Most of us are suffering," said Yeung Yuliu, 71, who has been in the same spot for 40 years, selling inexpensive silk neckties with the likenesses of Bart Simpson, Winnie the Pooh, when Mr. Chan started — are not the only Sylvester the Cat and other cartoon characters. "This is the worst in 40 years," she said.

SEOUL — Indonesia's mounting crisis may have drawn the world spotlight away from South Korea, but there is little cause to celebrate in

South Korea has been a major Reuters
SEOUL — The South investor in Indonesia, and further problems there would simply feed Korean stock market chalked up a record trading day Monday on hopes that the worst may be

South Korean banks had at least \$9 billion in outstanding loans to In-donesian clients. South Korean contractors, meanwhile, have an order backlog in Indonesia totaling several billion dollars, while South Korean carmakers are involved in

Talk about the possibility of a debt moratorium and political upheaval in Indonesia, analysts and local media it still totaled about \$9 billion. While "Already 200 construction firms the loans were officially classified as performing, Mr. Mok said it was added, "and the overseas market"

Park Joon, head of research at struction industry."
GST Holdings in Seoul, said the He said that if Indonesia were to SGST Holdings in Seoul, said the

compensate. I can't imagine what the final result will be for the con-

declare a moratorium, it would affect construction investment

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Herald Eribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

# Indonesia's Woes Seen Hurting South Korea

Seoul.

an unresolved financial debacle at home, analysts say.

Analysts estimated Monday that

turning the corner on its own crisis.

Y.C. Mok, a banking analyst at ING Barings in Seoul, said IndoneSGST Holdings in Seoul, said

sia's problems could seriously affect economic meltdown in Asia and a the ability of some of South Korea's severe downturn at home had banks to meet capital-adequacy ratios set by the Bank for International Settlements. Raising these ratios is a Further problems in Indonesia key requirement under the country's would simply make matters worse. \$60 billion IMF-led bailout, and is essential to the banks' ability to operate internationally.

Mr. Mok said that while South

reports said, had raised concern about difficult to determine how much of was the only hope for a revival. If more financial troubles in South the total was in fact being serviced, this goes wrong there's no way to Korea, just when it appeared to be adding: "Indonesia has not been so

would simply make matters worse.

"South Korean construction firms have a backlog of \$3 billion to \$4 billion in Indonesia," Mr. Park said.
"If they can't receive a return on their investmen."

Internet browser are separate A final decision in the case is excentral objective in mind: protecting products. By forcing PC makers to bundle Explorer with Windows, Microsoft rivals cheered the dows operating-system software, dows operating-system software, the corporation's crown jewel.

An operating-system program serves as the central nervous system of a computer. More than 80 percent makers get Explorer free, few, if of the world's personal computers any, would choose Windows withthe company a leg up in new markets like Internet software. That is es-pecially true if Microsoft decides, as it has with the browser, that what other companies are selling as a stand-alone product will be an "in-tegrated feature" of Windows for which nothing extra is charged. That kind of behavior presents a

quandary for antitrust policy. The goal of antitrust is to safeguard competitive markets in the interests of consumer welfare. By pulling standalone programs into its operating system, Microsoft is giving com-puter users more product for less money — a consumer benefit.

For nearly two decades, Mi-crosoft has steadily added more and

But as its market power has in-Windows operating program.

# projects there in which they have invested tens of millions of dollars. Korean banks had been trying to invested tens of millions of dollars. Korean banks had been trying to their investment, it would greatly aggregate their financial situations." the reduce their exposure to Indonesia, gravate their financial situations." MICROSOFT: Is the Software Giant Using Its Power to Limit Competition? Continued from Page 13 the courts. To the Justice Department, the case is not about innovation but inations on its right to design new products." Microsoft sees its crusade in the current case not as arrogance, as its windows operating system and its current case not as arrogance, as its windows operating system and its current case not as arrogance, as its windows operating system and its current case not as arrogance, as its windows operating system and its products. Internet browser are separate browser are separate browser are separate browser are separate.

critics charge, but as an uncompro-mising defense of principle. It is saying that Microsoft alone should be the arbiter of what goes into its products, and how it defines an integrated product.
The company insists that the government's consent-decree case, though narrow in some respects,

like Microsoft or Washington and

bundle Explorer with Windows, they add, Microsoft is using its near-monopoly in operating-system soft-mainly as a moral victory with little ware to restrict competition in the impact on the fortunes of the soft-market for Internet browsing soft- ware powerhouse. Because PC ware, where its main competitor is makers get Explorer free, few, if

Netscape Communications Corp.

though narrow in some respects, represents a challenge to the way it does business. At stake, Microsoft contends, is nothing less than who will control innovation in the economy — entrepreneurial companies of like Microsoft or Washington and represents a challenge to the way it does business. At stake, Microsoft a basic antitrust principle," said Mr. Klein, the antitrust chief. "It prohibits use of monopoly power to beat back a competitor." Like Microsoft a relentless innovator or a modern monopolist? The chief. "It prohibits use of monopoly power to beat back a competitor." Like Microsoft or Washington and like Microso

ware powerhouse. Because PC

NEW YORK: Where the Action in Asia Is Happening

creased over the years, Microsoft has been able to crush competitors — eliminating competition and per-haps innovation, which could harm consumers. Microsoft can crimp competition with the same strategy it employs to help consumers. What were once separate products, mar-kets and profitable businesses for other companies can be pulled in to become "features" of Microsoft's

# Continued from Page 13 building their strength. London, Paris and Frankfurt have been formancing, as companies try to get lower rates. That alone could create lower rates. That alone could create lower rates are lower rates.

lower rates. That alone could create huge new profits for the securities

nomic ringmaster cannot last, the experts say. Tokyo has been humbled for now, but its banks and other financial institutions are re-

industry, he said.

But New York's moment as ecoBut New York's m

fication next year, but will probably The city may get some dispropor-

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#### **EUROPE**

# French Inflation Rate Falls to 42-Year Low

PARIS — France's inflation rate fell to a 42-year low in 1997 and is expected to fall further as competition and deregulation force companies to cut costs and pass savings on to consumers, the national statistics agency Insee said Monday.

The government also said the Asian financial crisis would dampen consumer price inflation this year.

Prices were unchanged in December from November and rose 1.1 percent from December 1996. The slow growth in prices left the average annual inflation rate for 1997 at 1.2 percent — the lowest it has been since it reached 1 percent in 1955.

and down from 2 percent in 1996. Inflation was pulled lower in December by falling energy and food prices and is expected to remain subdued this year as financial and economic turmoil in Asia pulls as a major problem for Europe." prices down worldwide. Growing competition in many industries in

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Motorola Inc. said Monday that they

expected a new joint development

center to yield technology that

would sharply increase productivity

and reduce costs in the production of

computer chips in two to three

The companies said they would invest 1.5 billion Deutsche marks

(\$822.5 million) to develop technol-

ogy to produce semiconductors on 300 millimeter wafers, instead of the

The larger silicon disks would al-

200 millimeter wafers now in use.

low a cost reduction of 30 percent and

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Europe, characterized by deregulation and cross-border mergers, high unemployment and weak demand, is also preventing companies from asking consumers to pay more.

The benign outlook for inflation, despite signs of strength in the domestic economy, made it unlikely interest rates would be raised significantly this year, economists said.

They also said while there was a possibility of some price declines this year, fears of a deflationary spir-

were overdone.
"It wouldn't take much to tip us over the edge into actual price deflation as far as France is concerned. but while a fall in prices is technically deflation, it does not bring with it the declines." it Agricole Indosuez. "I don't see it

In an interview with the business daily La Tribune, Louis Schweitzer, the base price of each car.

Siemens and Motorola Detail Chip Project



MILK PROTEST - Tractors parked Monday north of Rome by dairy farmers who are pressing the Italian government to pick al in prices throughout the economy up the tab for their EU fines for exceeding production quotas.

After a period of 40 years of continuous increases in prices, we are entering into a period of continuous

problems of the 1930s," said Stuart
Thomson, market economist at Credfrancs (\$625) from the cost of making He said Renault had cut 3,850 each car and had handed half of the cost cuts to consumers by including what had been optional equipment in

Now France Telecom SA, Cegetel and other French telephone companies are promising a price war this year, after Europe's telecommunications markets were deregulated Jan. 1. And oil prices, whose decline in December helped bring down the inflation rate, kept

falling in January.
French bond yields, responding to the low inflation, have fallen to alltime lows. The yield on 10-year 5.5 percent bonds fell to 5.03 percent Monday, from 5.08 percent Friday, and has fallen 25 basis points in the last week, cutting borrowing costs for the government and companies. 'Inflation in France is very low,

and the tendency is for it to go even lower," said Philippe Brossard, an economist at ABN Amro. He said the annual inflation rate could fall to 0.8 percent in the first half of the year.

"Core inflation remains well under control," said David Brickman, an economist at PaineWebber International. "Certainly not the environment in which the Bank of France should be considering raising interest rates." Among other European coun-

tries, prices in November rose an annual 1.9 percent in Germany and 3.7 percent in Britain, and in December they rose 1.5 percent in percent in Britain, and in

# **BSkyB Plans** Digital TV in 2d Quarter

LONDON -- British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC, Britain's dominant pay-TV broadcaster, said Monday it was on track to start its digital-TV service by the second quarter of 1998 and that "significant volumes" of set-top boxes needed by consumers to see the service would be available in the fourth quarter.

The company, which is 40 per-cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., had planned to start selling 200 channels of digital TV in Britain by the end of last year.

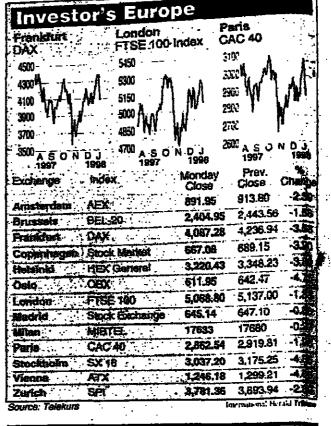
However, Sam Chisholm, BSkyB's chief executive until November, has frequently said he is skeptical about the prospects for digital TV and is concerned about the possibility of the new service taking customers from the company's analog customer base.

After BSkyB delayed the start of its new service, the services planned by rivals British Digital Broadcasting and British cable companies, followed suit.

Expectations are not as hoped earlier in BSkvB's life," said Malcolm Miller, chief executive of Pace Micro Technology PLC, one of four digital set-top box suppliers to BSkyB. "Digital TV is something that will come but it has not arrived yet in the U.K.

BSkyB declined to comment on a report that it might be forced to fund e initial production of set-top boxes for the digital-television service. The Financial Times reported that the company might have to provide temporary financing to subsidize the retail price of the set-top boxes, because a plan by a related company. British Interactive Broadcasting, to subsidize the boxes, has been delayed after the European Commission decided to investigate it.

BSkyB's shares fell 3.14 percent,



#### Very briefly:

The Trib Index

 Deutsche Bank AG is considering merging its investment banking unit. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, with its main banking business, sources said, adding that the changes could include dropping the Morgan Grenfell name.

 The Netherlands is not opposed to Italy's entry into Europe's planned monetary union, spokesmen for the government said. A spokesman for Prime Minister Wim Kok said a report in the German magazine Der Spiegel that the Netherlands would oppose Italy's entry was "absolutely nonsense."

ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., the Swiss-Swedish conglomerate, plans to restructure its steam-power business in Germany and close its Berlin plant, shedding 865 jobs.

· Tomkins PLC, the diversified British conglomerate with products ranging from Hovis bread to Smith & Wesson handguns, said net profit for the six months to Nov. 1 rose 27 percent, to £141.5 million (\$228.5 million). Sales rose 14 percent, to £2.46 billion. The company is considering acquisitions of a share-buyback plan to increase its debt-to-equity ratio.

· Skoda Auto AS, the Czech carmaker in which Volkswagen AG holds a majority stake, said 1997 unit sales grew 29 percent, to 336,334 curs.

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products sector. The companies plan to test the million DM to the project. technology on a pilot manufacturing line in Dresden and then to transfer it

to their other chip plants. The new center is the third chip operation to be built in Dresden in the past four years. In 1995, Siemens opened a plant in the east German city, and Advanced Micro

Devices Inc. is building a facility The Siemens-Motorola plant would employ several hundred workers, and spur the creation of hundreds of other jobs at suppliers, production in early 1998. service companies and research

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ment," said Hector de J. Ruiz, pres-ident of Motorola's semiconductor near the new chip plants. The German government will contribute 187 Faced with falling memory-chip

prices and growing competition from low-cost Asian rivals, semiconfluctor makers like Siemens and Motorola are increasingly joining forces. Siemens has a joint venture with Toshiba Corp., International Business Machines Corp., and Motorola to develop 256-megabit D-RAM memory chips. Siemens and Motorola also are building a \$1.5 billion chip plant in Richmond, Virginia, which is expected to begin

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

(Bloomberg, Reuters) to close at 432 pence (\$6.98). 9170 1990 30650 6100 10540 9850 5150

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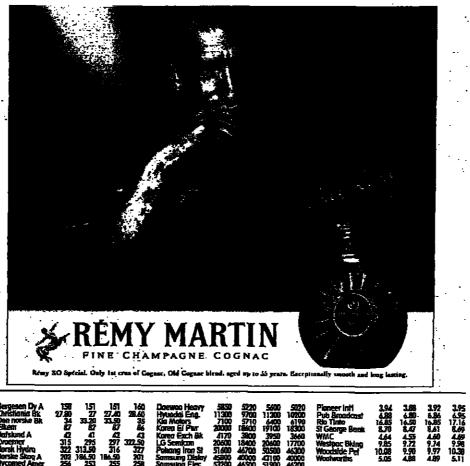
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# Herald Cribune PORTS

## WORLD ROUNDUP

#### Ronaldo Is Named Player of the Year

SOCCER Ronaldo, a striker who plays for Brazil and Inter Milan, was named 1997 World Player Monday by FIFA, the governing body of world soccer. It was the second successive year he has won the award.

In voting by national team coaches, Ronaldo, 21, was first in 86 of the 121 ballots for a total of 480 points. His compatriot Roberto Carlos, of Real Madrid, was second (AP, Reuters) with 62 points.

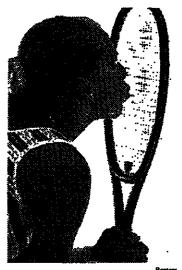
#### Barcelona Slips Again

**SOCCER** Barcelona, the Spanish league leader, squandered a two-goal lead in the closing minutes of a match for the second time in six days as it allowed Real Sociedad to gain a 2-2 draw on Sunday.

A week ago, Barcelona let in three goals in the last 11 minutes to lose, 4-3, at Salamanca. On Sunday, Real's Loren scored in the 82d minute and Javi De Paula shortly before the final whistle.

 Tomislav Ivic, a Croat, has agreed to coach Iran until the end of the World Cup Finals in France, Croatian media reported.

Ivic, 63, was quoted as saying: "Nothing has been signed yet, but we have agreed on everything. I will coach the Iranian side for the next six months.



Anna Kournikova testing her racket strings during a break.

#### Spaniards Fall in Sydney

TENNIS Three Spanish seeds fell in the first round of the Sydney international tournament Monday. Catios Moya, the No. 3 seed an a finalist last year, lost by 6-7, 6-4. 6-4, to Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in sweltering conditions on center

court at White City.
Alex Corretja, seeded No. 5, lost in straight sets to Hendrik Dreekmann, a qualifier from Germany. Another German. Nicolas Kiefer, eliminated fourth-seeded Sergi Bruguera, also in straight

Anna Kournikova, the Russian teenager, made an easy start to her first full year on the professional circuit. Kournikova's first-round opponent, Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia, withdrew injured during the second set of their match.

Koumikova struggled at the start and fell behind, 1-4. She rallied to win the next five games and take the set, 6-4, and was leading, 3-0, in the second when Basuki succumbed to a back strain. (Reuters)

### The Colts Hire Mora

FOOTBALL Jim Mora, who had spent his entire National Football League coaching career with the New Orleans Saints, was named coach of the Indianapolis Colts on Monday. Mora. 62, succeeds Lindy Infante, who was fired after the Colts finished a league-worst 3-13.

Mora was head coach of the Saints from 1986-96 and compiled a 93-78 record, but resigned after a 2-6 start in 1996. He spent two years as a TV commentator. It is the first major move by Bill Polian. who became general manager of the Colts last month.

# Champion Packers to Face Broncos in Super Bowl

# Green Bay Tramples San Francisco in the Mud

By Mike Freeman New Yark Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO - If the Green Bay Packers' home field advantage is the crunchy chill of a Wisconsin winter, then San Francisco's is El Niño.

It rained all day Sunday and the 49ers park was like a muddy sandbox. The 49ers believed that knowing how to run and cut in pudding would be as much of an advantage as being climatized to minus-10 degrees. At least that's what they kept telling themselves.

That was theory, this is reality: the Packers are going to Super Bowl XXXII to play the Denver Broncos and defend their title because they are a great team, and they can play anywhere, anytime.

Their 23-10 victory in driving rain and on slippery turf was their fourth consecutive victory over San Francisco - the third in postseason.

And while the score may not show it, Green Bay dominated the 49ers behind another pinpoint passing performance by Brett Favre, the receiving of Antonio Freeman and dominating defense and special teams that pinned the 49ers deep in their own territory all afternoon. San Francisco's average starting position, was inside their own 15-yard line.

"I'm very proud of the performance of the football team under very lough conditions," said Mike Holmgren, the Packers coach whose nine postseason victories ties him with Vince Lombardi. "I think our defense played an out-standing football game and we kept them off balance. Neither team was going to be real efficient considering the conditions. But our offense was able to get a few things going early."

Indeed, Favre, angered by media talk of how inaccurate he can be in big games as compared with 49ers quarterback Steve Young, was not early, and Green Bay took a 13-3 halftime lead and never looked back.

The Packers added a Ryan Longwell field goal and 5-yard touchdown run by Dorsey Levens to take a 23-3 fourth quarter lead. Favre finished 16 of 27 for 222 yards and one touchdown and controlled the offense cooly and confidently. "I love playing in big games," he said, "and this was a big game."

Green Bay will be heavily favored against the Broncos, a team they last played two years ago and hammered by 35 points.

"The entire season was pressure

packed," said Eugene Robinson, the

Âre they prima donnas? Are they charlatans? They're going to fall off, just wait, just wait. We had a lot to prove and we stayed cohesive."

This may have been one of their best performances. In addition to Levens gaining 114 yards on 24 carries, the first time the 49ers gave up more than 100 yards to a runner all year, and Freeman having four catches for 107 yards and a touchdown, the Packers simply shut down San Francisco's offense.

Using a variety of schemes, formations and blitz packages, Green Bay held San Francisco to just 257 total yards and 33 yards rushing. Their only points came on Gary Anderson's 28-yard field goal and a 95-yard kickoff return by Chuck Levy when the game was out of hand.

There were more connections between these two clubs than a family reunion. Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach. was the former quarterbacks coach with the Packers and is close friends with Favre, who gave him a consoling hug after the game. Holmgren, born in San Francisco and still part owner of several restaurants in town, was a former of-

All week, both teams talked about how

Green Bay safety. "There were a lot of much they respected one another. Then questions about us. 'Can we do it again? the game began and, as is custom, both teams tried to pummel one another.

The 49ers began with a distinct dis-advantage. Tight end Brent Jones took painkilling shots before the game for an injured calf. When teams blitz Young, Jones helps to take off the pressure by acting as a safety valve. San Francisco's plan was to use him heavily.

Since Jones played hurt, the 49ers' passing game never kicked into gear. Young was sharp, completing his first 10 passes but a rhythm was missing. Then on his 11th pass, disaster struck.

On third down at the Green Bay 28, Young tried to go to a hobbling Jones, covered tight by Robinson. Young's pass, a bad decision, was intercepted by Robinson, who returned it 58 yards deep into 49ers territory.

Offensively, the Packers continued to be able to move the ball in delicious

Freeman caught another deep ball, this one for 40 yards with 3 seconds left in the half. The play let the Packers get a field goal before halftime.

In the first half of its last two postseason games against San Francisco, the Packers outscored the 49ers, 55-13. The Packers' game plan this year was simple - go deep, deep, deep. It worked.

# Last Stand in a 'Great Career'

By Richard Justice
Washington Post Service

SAN FRANCISCO - Tight end Brent Jones wept as he walked off the field at 3Com Park for the final time

as a member of the San Francisco 49ers. Jones finished a brilliant 12year career Sunday, having long since established himself as one of the NFL's best at his position. Now 34, he announced his retire-

ment several weeks ago, saying the time had come to face the reality of age and injuries. As San Francisco lost to Green Bay in the National Football Conference championship game, Jones certainly wasn't the only 49er taking off his

uniform for the final time. While playoff losses hit every team hard, that is especially true for the 49ers, who begin each season expecting nothing less than a championship.

With the NFL's oldest roster and a payroll \$17 million over the projected 1998 salary cap, the 49ers know that others may follow Jones before the

start of training camp.

Center Jesse Sapolu, linebacker Gary Plummer, cornerback Rod Woodson and others don't know their status for 1998. Even quarterback Steve Young is 36 and running out of

Jones paid a high price to play in his final game. He pulled a calf muscle in practice Friday and took at least five painkilling injections to feel good enough to get on the field.

But he did get on the field, and in his final game, caught one pass for 12 yards. "It's tough to realize that it's your last game," Jones said. "Guys from both teams were coming up to me after the game saying. Good game and great career. I kind of lost it a little. I'm going to miss it a lot."



Antonio Freeman of the Packers gathering in a pass for a 33-yard gain.

Tyrone Braxton (34) of the Broncos, outjumping Steve Atwater (27) Ray Crockett (39) and Charles Johnson of the Steelers to intercept a pass.

# Stewart Gets a Lesson From 'The Man'

Washington Post Service

DITTSBURGH — Kordell Stewart has always wanted to be like John Elway. He worships the Denver quarterback, and when he refers to him as "The Man" - which he does often - there is an undeniable level of respect

in his voice. Elway finds this flattering. He has seen Stewart show great scrambling ability under pressure. He has seen him complete some almost inconceivable passes. And he has seen the 25-year-old Steeler quarterback, a player he has affectionately referred to as "The Kid," engineer a few comeback drives that can honestly be described as Elway-esque. 'He reminds me of myself," Elway

said. "A long time ago." There is one very important thing, though, that the 37-year-old Elway possesses and Stewart still doesn't experience. And that made all the difference when the two met in the AFC championship game at Three Rivers Stadium Sunday afternoon.

Stewart made mistakes. He made mistakes that young players have been known to make in big games like this one. He threw into double coverage. He was too aggressive. He was intercepted three times, twice in situations that dramatically affected the game. Elway, meanwhile, was composed, as always. He converted a third-and-6 play in the closing minutes to seal the victory for the Broncos.

"You take chances," Stewart said later, after the Broncos had their 24-21 victory. "I can sit up here and say, 'How in the Sam Hill can I throw that pass, can I throw those interceptions?' But I'm not going to sit here and lose my hair. It happened." Vantage Point / Jennifer Frey

The first interception — and the most devastating decision Stewart made in this game — came on second and 2 with the Steelers on the Denver 35-yard line. There were fewer than five minutes left in the first half, and Pittsburgh was leading, 14-10, in part because of a beautiful yard touchdown run by Stewart.

The Steelers decided to take a gamble and go long. Yancey Thigpen went to the end zone. The opening wasn't there. Thigpen was in double coverage. Stewart threw anyway. Ray Crockett intercepted, and before the half expired Elway got the Broncos into the end zone twice for a 24-14 lead. The momentum had swung.

The third interception (the second came in the closing seconds of the first half) was just as ugly. Again, it was second down. The Steelers were five yards from the end zone with an opportunity to cut the Broncos' lead to three points. Denver poured on the pressure. Stewart panicked. This time, there were three Broncos jerseys steps away from Charles Johnson's spot in the end zone. Again, Stewart threw anyway. Allen Aldridge got the pick.

The Steelers closed ranks after this game, defending their young quarterback with as much heart and vigor as they could muster. After all, they said, the Steelers never would have come this far, this fast, if Stewart hadn't proven to be an unbelievably quick study at his position. Thigpen vehemently insisted that it would be "unfair to blame the loss on Kordell."

Coach Bill Cowher talked about the future as much as the game that had just there and he played a great game."

passed. "He'll grow," Cowher said.
"There are things that come with time and experience. This is not on Kordell Stewart. This is not about him. Hey, we still had our opportunities." They had opportunities because, in one noteworthy respect, Stewart played

this game the way Elway plays football -he refused to believe that he could not stage a comeback, no matter how little time remained, or how large the lead. He put together a 79-yard touchdown drive in less than three minutes in the late stages of the fourth quarter, connecting on seven of eight passes and scrambling for nine yards. That got the Steelers within a field goal of the Broncos.

"You think we're going to have a chance," Stewart said of that moment.

Stewart wanted to be the last-minute miracle man, but that title stills belongs

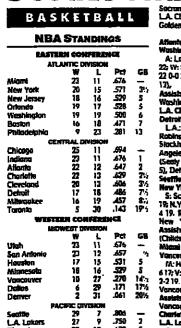
to Elway, and in case anyone doubted that, he proved it again. The third-and-6 play that Elway converted came right after the two-minute warning. Forced to think on his feet, Elway turned to Shartnon Sharpe in the huddle and said: "Get open. I'll pivot." Sharpe looked at him like he was insane. "We don't have that play," Sharpe

said to Elway.
"We do now," Elway replied.

Sharpe simply nodded and did what he was told. Seconds later, Elway hit him with an unscripted 18-yard pass. For all intents and purposes, the game was over. Elway had done it again.

"If I had played my best game, we would have won," Stewart said, "Elway - well, John obviously went out

#### SCOREBOARD



FOOTBALL 22; W: Strickland 12-21 13-14 37, Webber 11-22 0-0 25. Rebounds—Afjordy 56 (Mutorabo

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Secry 1). Assars—Los Angeles 14 (Month 5). Detroit 26 (Stockhouse B). Seettle 22 28 26 29—91 New York 22 24 22 23—92 S: Schrengt 9-14 4-4 23. Howdars 7-16 3-3 19: N.Y.: Johnson 7-16-5-6 29. Housdon 7-15-4-4 19: Rebounds—Secritie 42 (Schrempt 13). New York 49 (Johnson, B. Wilstoms, 9). Assists—Secritie 21 (Poyton 9), New York 22 (Childs, Stories 3)

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Van Exel 7-14 0-2 18. Rehighends—Charlotte 59 (Philis 12), Las Angelge-44 (Otheal 13). Assists—Charlotte 20 (Othealer 6). Las Angeles 27 (Jones 7).

**NFL PLAYOFFS** CONTENDIC CRAMPION Denver 24, Phitsburgh 21 Green Boy 21, San Francisco 10 Green Buy and Denver will meet in the Super

HOCKEY NHL STANDINGS

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(pp). 2. T-Anderston 2 (Zumuner) (sh).
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MERCEDES CHAMPIONSHIPS on the 7,003-yard, per-72 La Costa Resort and Spa course in Carlebed, CA: Phil Mickelson 68-67-68-69-271 Augit O'Meom 71-70-67-64-272

GOLF

Stewart Clink Gabriel Hjerts 71-67-71-48-277 <del>69-68-69-71--277</del> 68-70-66-73--277 67-71-71<del>-69--</del>278

SOCCER ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION Udinese 1, Napali 1 STANDROS: Inter Mann 36 points: Ju Transference 10g Parma 24; Lazio 25; Florentina 24, AS Roma 24, AC Millan 24; Sampdorio 22; Vicenza 18; Balagna 16; Barl 16; Empoli 15; Brescla 14; Placenza 13; Atu-

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Olympique Lyon 32; Besile 29; Toulouse 28;
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anta Bergama 13; Lecce 11; Napoli 6.

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SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPIONS

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Karoly Guttles, Hungary, 1:02.53

8, Mark
Warnetee, Germany, 1:02.31

200 METER PRIMAN

FINAL

1. Michael Kilm. Australia, 1:47.41/2. Majesi Rosollao. Italy. 1:48.30/3. Pieter Van Den Hoogenband, Neitherlande, 1:48.45/4. Jacob Contenson, Denmark. 1:49.74/5. Tom Malchow, United Stoles, 1:50.05. 6. Ryk Nechtling, South Africa. 1:50.05. 7. Paul Pointed Britista. 1:50.45/8. Gusturo Borges, Brazil. 1:50.47. THESE MATER SYNCHRONIZED

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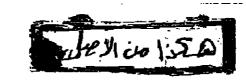
1. Januay Thompson, United States, 54.95
seconds; 2. Martina Meravcava, Slovalda. seconda; 2. Martina Menoreana, Sasays 55.09; 3. Shan Ying, China, 55.10; 4. Army Van Dykan, United States, 53.15; 6. Sandra Voeit-er, Garmany, 55.32; 7. See Rolph, Britoin, 56.03; 7. Sentika Minamota, Japan, 56.48; 8. Inge de Briuja, Neitherlands, 56.49.

FINAL
L Chen Yan, China, 4:36.56; 2. Yang
Klochkava, Ukraine, 4:38.60; 3. Yasuka Tajima, Japan, 4:39.54; 4: Wu Yanyan, China
4:40.16; 5. Kristine Quanca, United States 4:43.45; 7. Joanne Malor, Canada, 4:46.91; 8. Nadine Neumann, Australia, 4:48.84.

FINAL 1. Clenc Zhupyna, Ukraine, 550,0), 2, Cal Tygon, Chine, 536.25: 3, Chen LL, Chines, 550.41; 2, Cel Tygon, Chine, 536.25: 3, Chen LL, Chines, 519.45: 4. Chantelle Michell, Australia, 475.29; S. Laura Wilkinson, United States, 472.45: 4. Arnike Welder, Germany, 472.45; N. Irine Vyguzzwa, Kazakhsten, 471.12; 8, Emiller, Marchan czia. Mexico, 447,54; 19. Anje Richter, Au tria, 434.01; 11, Olgo Khristoforova, Russik 433.95; 12. Ule Wetzig, Germany, 406.81.

SORTHWINE SECTION

TRANSITIONS



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Cerna Hanas of the Czech Republic had company unwinding Monday after a race at the Perth championships.

# **U.S. Swimmer Snatches Freestyle Gold**

PERTH, Australia — After five Olympic team gold medals, Jenny Thompson of the United States finally won one on her own Monday when she finished first in the 100-meter freestyle at the world swimming championships

In other finals Monday, Fred Deburghgraeve of Belgium, the world record holder and Atlanta gold medalist. won the gold medal in the men's 100meter breaststroke in one minute, 1.34 seconds, more than a second off his Flack & Da world mark.

Chen Yan of China won the women's 400-meter individual medley, and Michael Klim of Australia won the 200-

meter freestyle.

Klim finished in one minute 47.41 seconds, eight-tenths of a second outside the world record of 1:46.69 set in 1989 by Giorgio Lamberti of Italy.

Massi Rosolino of Italy won the silver, nearly a second behind Klim, while Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Neth-

The Associated Press The two teams with the best records

in the National Basketball Association

The Seattle SuperSonics had their-

NBA ROUNDUP

league-best 29-7 record, missed two po-

tential game-winning shots in the clos-

Larry Johnson scored 20 points, Al-

Hornets 98, Lakers 93 David Wesley

both lost on the same night.

tight-game winning streak snapped by the New York Knicks, 92-91, and the

The Lacid Los Angeles Lakers lost to the Charlotte

Homets, 98-93. The Sonics, who have a

ing seconds at Madison Square Garden

lan Houston had 19 and John Starks 15

in as New York halted Scattle's eight-

game road winning streak.

NBA's Best Both Come Up Short

erlands was third.

Thompson was thrilled with her victory: "The time wasn't the greatest, but I'm really happy with the gold medal for our team," she said of her 54.95-second time, well outside Le Jingyi of China's world record of 54.01.

Martina Moravcova of Slovakia was second in 55.09, and Shan Ying of China was third in 55.10. When asked whether her victory over a Chinese swimmer was any more note-

worthy because of the drug scandal facing the Chinese team, Thompson said: "Let's just say that's one clean win." Though an interpreter, Shan said: "The local media has been unfair to our

swim team. It has affected our training and life here. As an athlete I say they've gone too far." Zeng Qiliang of China was second in the men's 100-meter breaststroke, and

Kurt Grote of the United States was third for the bronze.

Earlier, China won a gold medal in the men's three-meter synchronized

turned from injury.
Hawks 107, Wizards 102 In Wash-

ington, Christian Laettner scored 23

points, and Steve Smith had 4 of his 22

in overtime as Atlanta beat the Wizards

Rod Strickland had a career-high 37 points, 10 assists and 8 rebounds for the

for the second time in three days:

dive and took silver and bronze in the 10-meter platform.

Xu Hao and Yu Zhuocheng scored 313.50 points in the men's dive debut event while Olena Zhupyna of Ukraine took gold in the 10-meter dive ahead of Cai Yugan and Chen Li of China.

Two other members of the Chinese team tainted by a drug scandal left for home Monday while FINA, the sport's governing body, said it had received the report that will decide their fate. Yuan Yuan, a Chinese swimmer, was caught last week trying to bring a banned growth hormone into Australia. She and her coach, Zhou Zhewen,

face a minimum four-year ban. World swimming officials said they would double security for a men's water

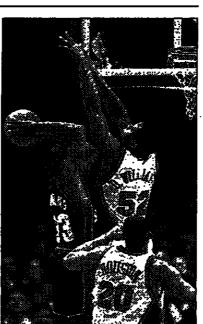
polo semifinal between Croatia and Yugoslavia on Tuesday. Unruly fans have been ejected from matches involving the teams in the preliminary rounds. The two countries did not face each other, but usually played at the same venue on the same day.

Pistone 113, Clippers 85 In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Grant Hill scored 33 points as Detroit routed the Los Angeles Hill who set a career high with 15

field goals, also had 10 rebounds and 6 assists. Brent Barry led the Clippers with 17 points. Heat 95, Grizzlies 90 Alonzo Mourn-

ing had 17 points, 15 rebounds and 7 blocks as Miami won in Vancouver, handing the Grizzlies their 10th successive loss.

scored 23 points and Anthony Mason had 7 of his 22 in the fourth quarter as Tim Hardaway had 20 points and Charlotte won in Los Angeles.
Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points and nine assists for the Heat, who won their third consecutive contest. Shareef Ab-13 rebounds, but the Lakers lost for the dur-Rahim led Vancouver with 26 second time in six games since he repoints and 10 rebounds.



**Buck Williams of the Knicks going** up to block a shot by Hersey Hawkins of the SuperSonics.

# Disabled Golfer Drives to Victory

By Bob Harig Washington Post Service

LAKELAND, Florida - All Casev Martin wants is a chance. At the Lakeland Classic, the golfer with a debilitating limp showed what he can do

Martin, riding a golf cart that he says he needs to get around the course, shot a 3-under-par 69 at Grasslands Country Club on Sunday to win the first Nike Tour event of the year. Whether the win becomes a step to-

ward the PGA Tour, a level above the Nike Tour, will be determined by a federal judge in Eugene, Oregon, who will hear Martin's lawsuit against the PGA Tour beginning Feb. 2.

Until then, Martin can play. On Sun-day he did that, and held off Steve Lamontagne by one stroke.
"I'm stunned," said Martin, who

won a \$40,500 purse. "I can't believe I won. I know I'm supposed to say I was totally confident coming in, but I wasn't. I had a lot on my mind." "I think this helps in the public sec-

tor. They realize I have a chance to make it some day - and if I don't get a cart, I probably won't." Martin, 25, suffers from Klippel Trenaunay Weber Syndrome, a circu-latory disorder. It is a birth defect that

slows blood flow to his right foot. Martin limps, and just getting from his cart to the ball and around the greens takes considerable effort. He said he did not believe his career could continue

without a cart. The PGA Tour, which

oversees the Nike Tour, does not let golfers use carts in tour events. 'We congratulate Casey Martin on his win, just as we do the victor in all events," said Tim Finchern, the PGA Tour commissioner, in a statement. 'The fact remains that Mr. Martin participated and won using a golf cart under

terms of a court order. Martin sued the PGA Tour prior to last month's PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament in Haines City, Florida, where he missed his PGA Tour playing card by two shots but earned full privileges on the Nike Tour, golf's minor leagues. He sued and was granted an injunction allowing him to ride a cart for the Qualifying Tournament. The PGA Tour agreed to let him ride in the first two Nike events prior to the trial. The tour believes it is like any other

pro sports league, or a private membership organization, and should be allowed to set rules free from governmental or indicial interference.

Martin's victory created a personal after winning the Lakeland Classic.

vs. professional conflict for Tiger Woods, who played with Martin for one year at Stanford.

"As a friend, I'd love to see him get a cart," Woods said. "But from a playing standpoint, is it an advantage? It prob-

Martin shot 66-69-65-69 to finish at 269, 19 under par.

He began the day tied for the lead with former PGA Tour player Woody Austin, though both needed to complete three holes from a darkness-halted third round. When they completed those holes, Martin was two shots of ahead of Austin and three ahead of Lamontagne, who were partners for the final round.

montagne shot 67 and pulled within one shot after Martin bogeyed the 15th hole. Martin responded with a birdie at the 16th. But Lamontagne rolled in a birdie put at the 17th, forcing Martin to make a tricky five-footer for par to stay ahead by one. Both players made par at the

Austin faded with a 74, but La-

"I've had so much on my mind, so much media attention," Martin said. "I've never had to deal with so much attention. Maybe I should have this happen more often. I certainly hope this will die down eventually. It's tough, it's

Martin said he didn't expect his victory to change the PGA Tour's stance. He said he is prepared for a long fight and knows the tour likely will appeal if

'I don't know what the judge wil say. I just want to play," Martin said. "I love playing golf. But if I don't have a cart, it's too painful. It's just not worth if So I'm going to try and savor this."



Casey Martin sitting in his cart

# Mickelson Holds Off 2 Tough Rivals

By Clifton Brown New York Times Service

CARSLBAD, California - Phil Mickelson needed to be daring. He needed to be confident. He needed all of his shot-making skills. Most of all, he needed birdies.

Tiger Woods was raging around La Costa Resort and Spa, making one of his electrifying charges. Mark O'Meara was matching Woods stroke for stroke.

To keep his lead Sunday in the Mercedes Championship, Mickelson couldn't simply play conservatively. He shot a four-under-par 68 Sunday, to finish on 271, 17 under for the tournament and one stroke better than Woods and O'Meara. David Duval, chasing his fifth straight victory, shot one-overpar, to finish 11 under and tie for sixth place. Woods and O'Meara both shot eight-under-par 64s, the

best rounds of the tournament. A lesser player, especially with Woods in pursuit, might have fol-ded. Mickelson responded.

"I was right next to the ninth green when Tiger cagled No. 9, and saw him close to within a shot of where I was," he said. "Tiger is one of the best closers on tour.

"My mind-set for the rest of the round changed." Mickelson added. 'I needed to attack, make birdies, fire at some pins. Consequently, I made a number of birdies.

Mickleson won \$306,000 and a 1998 Mercedes SL 500. Two weeks ago, Mickelson and his wife. Amy, bought a Mercedes. Sunday's victory gave them a matching set. Amy was driving around in car

that I thought was too little, so I wanted her to have something safer," said Mickelson. "But when I was writing the check for the Mercedes, Amy said, 'Maybe we should wait another two weeks.' I said, 'Don't put that kind of pressure on me.' Turns out, she was right.'

# **Ducks Catch Up Mightily and Fly Past Stars**

National Hockey League, led the strug gling Anaheim Ducks 1-0 with five minutes to play and lost.

Anaheim scored one in regulation time and then one in overtime for a 2-1 victory on Sunday night. Since Feb. 18,

NHL ROUNDUP

1996, the Stars had not lost in 75 games (winning 65 and tying 10) in which they had led after two periods.

Goaltender Ed Belfour, trying for his league-leading eighth shutout and third in a row against Anaheim, surrendered a goal by Jeff Nielsen with 5:08 left in the third period that tied the game.

Joe Sacco scored with 1:22 left in overtime as the Mighty Ducks rallied to

pass to Paul Kariya, who carried the buck into the Dallas zone and set up Sacco's seventh goal with a feed in front of the crease.

"I saw Paul with me for a two-onone, and he saw me going as fast as I could to the net," Sacco said of the winning goal. "It was an incredible pass than landed flat on my tape."

Red Wings 2, Capitals 0 Igor Larionov and Vyacheslav Kozlov scored thirdperiod goals as Detroit ended Wash-

ington's three-game winning streak. Larionov scored on Detroit's 32d shot 6:13 into the third period as the teams were skating 4-on-4. Kozlov ad-

ded an empty-net goal with 19.3 seconds left.

Flyers 5, Lightning 2 Trent Klatt had

The Associated Press beat the visiting Stars. Teemu Selanne two power-play goals and an assist as The Dallas Stars, the top team in the started the game-winning rush with a visiting Philadelphia handed Tampa Bay its fourth straight loss.

Klatt helped break open a 1-1 game by assisting on Rod Brind'Amour's second-period goal at 12:07 and adding his own goal 52 seconds later.

Coyotes 4, Senators 4 Shawn McEachern's second-effort goal with 9:03 remaining in regulation gave visiting Ottawa a tie with Phoenix.

Alexei Yashin, Stan Neckar and Radek Bonk also scored for the Senators, who played an entire game without a penalty for the first time in their six-year history.

Ottawa forced overtime when McEachern pounced on the rebound of his own shot and backhanded it past Coyotes goaltender Nikolai Khabibulin for his 15th goal.

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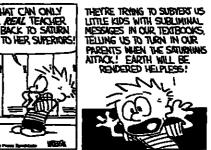


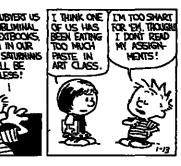












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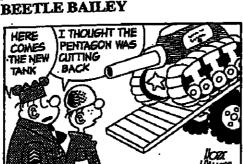
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# **Defense Motions**

WASHINGTON — Not for themselves. Three Fingers all lawyers are making Muldoon, who wiped out 12 a bundle. Several hundred members of the Luchese criminal defense lawyers in gang, is now doing commu-Maryland are fishing for new nity service at the Baltimore

ed by the police. Some of the Suspects get solicitations from the lawyers before they get arrested by the

The lawyers the ad- Buchwald

dresses by hiring a company to search in computerized lists for arrest notices. The law firms then send the suspects a letter offering their Services.

According to Phillip Pan. your problem. and Katherine Shave, reporters for The Washington Post, which makes this story believable, Prince Georges County has documented cases this year of legal solicitation of people accused of violent crimes.

In Maryland the lists of people are public, but sometimes the suspects do not know a warrant is out for their arrest

The lawyers must make their letters believable and appealing. Here are a couple that might attract some busi-

Dear Louie,

We understand that you are on the 10 Most Wanted List in Maryland for robbing three banks and the payroll of the other people's money. Annapolis Naval Academy. This case is right up our alley. you down to driving with an the power-grubbing prosecuexpired license and throwing tors have to prove it. trash on the tracks of the Bal-

timore railroad station. Our successful cases speak

business by sending mailings Orioles' baseball park. Dean to people want- Quick, who stole \$20 million from the Maryland Crabcake Foundation, was defended by us, and after we made our case Dean was given a Life Achievement Award by the Chesapeake Bay Hall of

Fame. The charges against you are serious, Louie. That is why we have enclosed a selfaddressed envelope. Let us make 1998 a year when justice for you was served. Hiding out in Rio de Janeiro with two girlfriends is

only a temporary answer to

Sincerely, Harry Skull

Dear Mr. Holster,

Congratulations on embezzling \$3 million from your health insurance company. Apparently the district aftorney has decided to prosecute you, and you will need all the defense you can get. Our strategy, if you let us represent you, is that you were taking Prozac and didn't know what you were doing. We believe with the right jury we can get you off without doing any time and, at the worst, reduce your fine to

\$10,000. Our firm specializes in rep-

If you take advantage of our winter sale we will throw in Before you hire an inept law- the first 25 hours free. Call us yer, come to Skull, Skull and now before you get indicted. Bones. We can plea-bargain You possibly did wrong, but Cheers.

Charley Bones Harvard, 1979

# Heirs Claim Art Lost to Nazis in Amsterdam

By Alan Riding

MSTERDAM - Jacques major exhibition at the Mu-AMSTERDAM — Jacques Goudstikker, a leading art dealer in prewar Amsterdam, was one of many wealthy Jewish col- Jewish owners are demanding lectors whose artworks were seized their return from an Austrian by Nazi Germany in the early 1940s. But unlike, say, the Roth-schilds and David-Weills of France, who recovered most of their belongings after the war, Goudstikker's collection was never reconstituted. By the mid-1950s, it was as if he had never existed.

After the revelations of Switzerland's secret retention of Nazi gold. interest has been stirred throughout Europe and the United States in the destiny of other Jewish property collector, but because of the seized by the Nazis, including two response of Dutch authorities paintings by the Austrian Expressionist Egon Schiele that have been detained in New York.

Now questions are being asked here about the whereabouts of the detailing his gallery's fine col-valuable Goudstikker collection. lection of Old Masters and othvaluable Goudstikker collection. And the answers are proving em- er artworks when he fled Ambarrassing, Most of the paintings disappeared, and the rest hang in Dutch museums.

discovered that locating artworks one of the last ships to leave for taken by the Nazis is no guarantee of repossession. The Dutch government has rejected the claim and even an offer of a settlement by the heirs, arguing that it alone is the rightful owner of the collection. And now the heirs are going to court to try to recover their lost legacy. A

hastily sold by their Jewish owners, refuge in the United States. and many confiscated artworks were sold by the Nazis or were later seized by the Soviet Army. Jewish heirs can expect to find museums, and governments, reluctant to surrender paintings bought on the open market or, in Moscow's case, seized

In the dispute over the own-ership of the two paintings by Schiele, which were part of a seum of Modern Art in New York, the heirs to the prewar government-financed seum that claims them.

Among such disputes, the Goudstikker case in the Netherlands is typically complex, yet it stands out, not for what happened during the war, but after the Allied victory, not because the collection was coveted by none other than Hermann Goering, Hitler's air force chief and an avid art in the late 1940s and early '50s, and again today. Goudstikker was carrying

little more than a black book sterdam on the night of May 14, 1940. With Nazi forces sweeping north through the Netherlands, he, his wife and Still more disconcerting to many Netherlands, he, his wife and Dutch, Goudstikker's heirs have their 3-year-old son boarded Britain before German troops occupied the Dutch coast.

Had he survived, he would have been glad that he fled: during the next five years, 75 percent of the 140,000 Jews remaining in the Netherlands died in Nazi camps. But just 24 hours after leaving Amsterdam, as he walked the blackedsolution may be years away. sterdam, as he walked the blacked-out deck of the S.S. Bodegraven, for missing artwork, the Goudstik- the 42-year-old dealer fell into an ker case serves as a warning of legal open hold and died. He was buried obstacles that may lie ahead. Some pieces lost in this diaspora were ow, Desiree, and son, Eduard, took

Goudstikker's collection, which comprised 1,208 paintings, including works by Rembrandt, Goya and Giotto, was soon dispersed. On July 13, 1940, Goering bought 779 paintings, albeit keeping only the best of these for his private museum, Carinhall.



The Amsterdam building where Jacques Goudstikker had his art gallery. His German agent, Alois Miedl, dropped her claim to the paintings. purchased the rest of Goudstikker's In the decades that followed, property. By late summer 1940, the Kunsthandel J. Goudstikker NV, as Jacques Goudstikker's name faded

the Amsterdam art gallery was known, had been liquidated on orders of Miedl Desiree and Eduard took the sur-After the war, most of the colname of her second husband. Aulection was never found. More surgust E.D. von Saher, and all are prisingly, the 300 or so paintings now dead. Today, 160 of Goudrecovered by the Allies and restikker's paintings hang in 17 Dutch museums without any refturned to the Netherlands were not returned to Goudstikker's Austrierence to their provenance. (Another 120 to 150 paintings of lesser an-born widow. Rather, apparently eager to enrich its own museum

government after 1949.) Then, early last summer, with a new generation of historians and after the war) and resume her journalists probing the past in the singing career, she reluctantly wake of the reports of the Nazi gold,

quality were auctioned off by the

Gerard Aalders, a researcher at the Netherlands National-War Documentation Institute, pointed out "oddities" in the Goudstikker case to a Dutch reporter, Pieter den Hollander of the daily Algemeen, Dagblad. Den Hollanderbegan his own investigation" and was soon convinced than an injustice had been done. He tracked down Goudstikker's heir, Eduard von Saher's widow Marei, in Greenwich Connecticut, and briefed her.

For Mrs. von Saher, 53, and her two daughters, Chantal and Charlene, it was a revelation: Eduard van Saher and his mother had rarely mentioned the Goudstikker legacy. But the evidence seemed persuasive.

Den Hollander's news articles on the subject also awakened public interest here. Finally, in October, Mrs. von Saher contacted the Dutch government to obtain some financial compensation and recognition of Goudstikker's role as a collector. In November, she was rebuffed.

"I still have no intention of taking the paintings out of the museums," she said during a recent visit to Amsterdam,

where she saw seven paintings from the Goudstikker collection in the Riiksmuseum. "But people don't know they belonged to Jacques Goudstikker. Perhaps there should be a special museum or room with all his paintings so he can be given some credit. And I think that somewhere along the line there should be

some compensation."

At the heart of the court case she plans to bring against the Dutch government is the question of whether bureaucratic and judicial decisions made during or immediately after the war can pass the test of time. "Seen through today's eyes, was what was done moral or immoral?" she asked. "I think people are looking at things differently today.

#### **BOOKS**

# Zoe Valdes on the Paradise of Nothing

By Larry Robter New York Times Service

MIAMI — Five years ago, when she was still living in Havana and working at a magazine that had ceased publishing because there was no longer paper to print it, Zoe Valdes mentioned to a friend that with so much time on her hands, she was writing a novel. The title, she told him, was "La Nada Cotidiana" — a literal translation of which might be The Nothingness of Daily

"If you're going to call it that, I don't even want to bother to read it," she recalls her friend saying. "With that title, it will never see the light of day.

But Valdes persisted; when she finished, one copy of her manuscript was smuggled out of Cuba on a raft heading for Miami, another by a French journalist returning to Paris.

The author herself left for France early in 1995, and in short order the novel was not only published in Spanish and French under the title she had chosen, but also, to her surprise and delight. became a best-seller in both lan-

Recently published in English as "Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada," Valdes's novel begins with the words, "She comes from an island that had wanted to build paradise," and goes on to paint a devastating portrait of life in Cuba during "the special period."

That is the official euphemism for the regimen of austerity and privation that followed the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1989 and that still frames the lives of a generation of disillusioned Cubans, Valdes's generation, who were raised to be model revolutionaries.

Like Valdes, Yocandra, the heroine of the book, was born on May 2, 1959, during the initial euphoria that followed

Fidel Castro's rise to power. She also works at a magazine that has stopped publishing, and watches bitterly as her friends depart Cuba aboard flimsy rafts or through opportunistic marriages to foreigners, leaving her to scramble for food and ponder her fate in a decaying apartment building in Old

"I was born asphyxiated, and I still lack air to breathe," Yocandra muses at one juncture. Cuba, she reflects at another point, is a country of countless "meetings, general assemblies, popular assemblies, at which the same old idiocy

is always discussed.'' It is a country in which there is a shortage even of shame, because "how can you have shame if there isn't any deodorant, nor even a sweet potato or be attracted to her fiction.

any tenderness. "This was a book written out of rage and anger and pain," Valdes said in an interview during a recent visit here from Paris, where she now lives with her

husband and young daughter. She was participating in the Miami Book Fair and visiting relatives and friends. "I was writing during the worst moment in the history of Cuba, and when I read it now I still feel that same



Author Valdes portrays Cuba in that "special period" of austerity.

by the strait-laced standards of the Cuban Revolution, is considered politically unacceptable for an educated

It is tempting, Valdes acknowledged, to blame traditional Latin American machismo for the negative official response to those passages. But she argues that a totalitarian state system, a sus-picion and intolerance of any activity we walk in the way we talk, in the way we beyond official control, is a more persuasive explanation.

"In Cuba, the sexual act, the moment of orgasm, is the only time that one is Cotidiana," Valdes has enhanced her truly free," she maintains.

characters, especially their sexual exsaid "honors me."

But that same characteristic has also given the Cuban government a weapon the lives and loves of a group of costo alienate her from exiles who share her mopolitan young Cubans scattered into disdain for Castro and might otherwise exile all around the world.

They are always talking about the coarse Zoe Valdes, the crude Zoe Valdes continues to cultivate a Cuban Valdes," she explained. "In that way, ambience around her. She has held on to the Cuban state can discredit me here.'

Some Cuban exiles are even more conservative on moral issues than their adorned with Roman Catholic images of counterparts on the island and take offense at her graphic, rapturous descriptions of sex and lovemaking.

Cuban authorities and led to a de facto equal capacity to transform self-assurarrived, I'm afraid."

ban on her entire body of work, which ance and the grotesque into spectacle, includes novels, poetry and short stories. to show vulgarity and eroticism stripped Using the slang and cadences of the Havana streets, she also writes with reek of "opportunism" and "uncouth "opportunism" and "uncouth a frankness about sexual matters that, prose" and are aimed chiefly at "Euroby the strait-laced standards of the peans in search of the exotic" and "collectors of decadence the world over."

In response, Valdes said: "Look, literature is subversive in any society, capable of provoking insults and controversy, but it is not my intent to scandalize. It's just that sensuality is essential to Cuban culture. It's in our eat and in our palate, with our liking for food that is sweet and salty."

reputation as a picaresque writer with the Her emphasis on the interior life of her publication in Europe and Latin America of four more novels. The most sucperiences, has led more than one Span- cessful has been "Te Di la Vida Enish-language critic to describe Valdes as tera," or "I Gave You My Whole Life." "our Anais Nin," a comparison that she a portrait of the Havana demimonde in the years before the Revolution; the most

> Even though her formal connections with Cuba have been all but severed, ambience around her. She has held on to her libreta, the ration book supplied to all Cubans, and in the writing room of her apartment in Paris the walls are St. Lazarus and the Virgin Mary that are

also important in santeria. "Some day I hope to be able to open a Alejandro Armengol, a critic for El newspaper and go right by the page that pain."

Nuevo Herald, a Miami newspaper, distalks of Cuba, and to be able to write of other things, of other truths and lies,"

Madonna of Cuban literature, with an other than the said. "But that day has not yet

# **PEOPLE**

collections, the Dutch government

created many difficulties for her.

Finally, in 1952, wanting to get on

with her life (she had remarried

AN American sculptor who works in the deserts of Arizona has won the \$100,000 Wolf Prize for the arts. James Turrell, of Flagstaff, was honored for his "highly individualist imagery, which is a spiritualized synthesis of form and light in seemingly infinite space," the prize committee said. Turrell's major work is an interactive sculpture and observatory he calls a "celestial theater" that he is building at Roden Crater, an extinct volcano in the Painted Desert in Arizona. The Wolf prizes are given anqually for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, agriculture, mathematics and the arts. President Ezer Weizman of Israel will present the awards in Jerusalem in May.

ders of Miedl.

France on Monday honored four British directors and a British actor. The Oscar-winning actor Jeremy Irons and the directors Mike Leigh, Stephen Frears, Peter Greenaway and Michael Radford were made officers of the order of arts and letters by Culture Minister Catherine Trautmann. Leigh, whose quirky films have been big winners at the Cannes film festival, was upbear about the British film industry as he accepted nominated for five Oscars for his "Secrets and Lies." "We all have to struggle with the long arm of Hollywood. its shadow, its interference. Our job is not to genuflect." Irons, who won a 1991 Oscar for "Reversal of Fortune," cited the international success of the British comedies "The Full Monty" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral" as proof that offbeat, individualistic films could make money. "The Americans think we are arty-farty," Irons said. "I believe in regeneration, not the treadmill." But August said he had acted because his Frears, who has just completed his first privacy was being threatened. The fundwestern, with Woody Harrelson in the. starring role, said there was no point in

A colorful flotilla of more than 100 sail and motor vessels paid homage to the late French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau in Uruguay. The fleet sailed 12 miles (about 20 kilometers) from Punta del Este past Punta Ballena, where a plaque was unveiled in honor of Cousteau, who died June 25. The homage was

his award at the French ambassador's residence in London. "Things are looking positive. It is healthier," said Leigh, second anniversary of the sinking of than me," Conley told TV Guide, "and

second anniversary of the sinking of than me," Conley told TV Guide, "and Cousteau's research vessel, Calypso, in who was I to argue?'

fronted him as he and his companion, Princess Caroline of Monaco, were leaving a weekend fund-raising dinner, the police in Hannover said. They said that the journalist suffered a broken nose and face and head injuries and that Ernst privacy was being threatened. The fundraiser, for the benefit of an international foundation for biology, neurosurgery carping about Hollywood as the world and neural illnesses, was being held on leader in film entertainment. property belonging to the prince. But the journalist claimed he was not on the prince's property, but waiting outside, when he was set upon.

> American soap opera star to be immormuseum in London. "The museum

Dinosanr bones will be taking a ride Prince Ernst August of Hannover on the space shuttle. The retired as-attacked a television journalist who con-tronaut Jay Apt, now director of the tronaut Jay Apt, now director of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, offered a 214-million-year-old coelophysis skull to NASA for the mission of the space shuttle Atlantis, which lifts off Jan. 22. "This remarkable" opportunity to marry the Earth's history with humankind's future is what the Museum of Natural History is all about," Apt said. The skull is included amongseveral lightweight items taken on each shuttle flight.

After the blockbuster film "Titanic, another version of the 1912 tragedy is soon to open in Paris. An opera director whose father and grandfather were on Darlene Conley of "The Bold and board the Titanic is staging a musical of the Beautiful" is proud to be the first the sinking at the small Tambour Royal theater. Elisabeth Navratil's father, talized in wax at Madame Tussaud's Michel, was 4 when the liner sank in the Atlantic. His 2-year-old brother also surorganized by a Uruguayan painter, Car- called and said they couldn't think of vived, but his father drowned. Navratil's los Paez Vilaro, to coincide with the anybody more instantly recognizable musical runs from Jan. 22 to March 1.

# Oprah and Tim Allen Top People's Choice Awards

C ANTA MONICA, California — The comedian Tim Allen S and the syndicated talk show host Oprah Winfrey were named the best TV series performers at the People's Choice recent, "Café Nostalgia," is a study of Awards ceremony. Also bonored were country singer Garth Brooks, male musical performer, Kirstie Alley, actress in a new TV series in "Veronica's Closet," and Harrison Ford and Julia Roberts for best actor and best actress in a motion picture. "Liar Liar" was selected as the best motion picture comedy and "Jerry Maguire" was named best movie drama
"ER" was the best TV drama series and 'Seinfeld" was chosen as the best TV comedy series.

The show was hosted by the actor Ray Romano and the singer Reba McEntire, who shared the female musical performer award with Whitney Houston.

A special tribute honored the actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg, whose 20-year entertainment career includes more than 20 films, five seasons on the television series "Star Trek: The Next Generation," and co-hosting HBO's "Comic Re-

lief," which has raised millions for the homeless.
Winners were chosen by a Gallup Poll representing Americans, 12 and older, rather than by industry peer groups as with other entertainment awards. The 24th annual event was broad-



Oprah Winfrey with her People's Choice award.